

Larson

19

NO PRESERVATIVES ADDED



The Minefields of Mirth

Having started this essay several times, I realize this subject could easily have required a third volume for this collection, which is already approaching critical mass. But maybe I can touch on just a few examples of how, in my experience, the simple formula:

drawing (d) + words (w) = cartoon (c)
can turn into:
 $d + w = \pi$ in my face.

First, there is the offensive variable: Inadvertently offending people (speaking for myself, I swear it was always inadvertent, although I admit to sometimes holding my breath when certain cartoons went "out the door") and reading their angry letters is a tough experience when you're first starting out young and enthusiastic, with visions of sugar cows in your head. Sometime after you receive your second or third "How DARE you!" letter, it begins to dawn on you that your own mother may not be the best gauge of how the rest of the world will always respond to you.

But eventually you learn the Big Truth: There's no avoiding this variable. You learn pretty fast in the humor business that offending some people is simply inevitable. (Unless I'm mistaken, even Dean Martin sang, "Everybody offends somebody sometime.") I suppose you could step around this particular land mine by drawing a strip like *Nancy*, although I'd be willing to bet that in his lifetime even Ernie Bushmiller got a letter or two suggesting that Sluggo was fostering some "social cancer."

How easy is it to offend someone? Try this: I once knew someone who expressed indignation over the cartoonist's universal symbol for cursing. You know, the "&*#@*\$#!" you sometimes see when, say, a character hits his thumb with a hammer? Maybe just a simple "#@!" would have been okay with this person, but a full, in-your-face "&*#@*\$#!" was apparently too much to handle. For the record, I don't believe I ever said "&*#@*\$#!" in any of my cartoons, except once when I made fun of the device.

Some land mines you unwittingly plant yourself, without a clue in the world of what you're doing. For example, the word "boink."

Warning to other cartoonists: Do not use "boink" as a sound effect for something smacking into something else. I didn't know this. I used it more than once. "Boink," as it turns out, can be considered a verb. (Especially by the Brits, who first brought the boink issue to my attention.) And as a verb, "boink" is a bad thing to say. Unless, of course, you *meant* to say "boink." Then I suppose "boink" is a beautiful thing, if perhaps not the most romantic way of expressing the thing that "boink" means, as a verb, you see. Whatever. Let's drop it.

Then there are the small, factual details that I sometimes overlooked. I suppose these are more equivalent to stumbling in a cartoon rather than actually falling, but frankly it used to bug the hell out of me when I did it. Case in point: Cassius Marcellus Coolidge.

It was a dark and stormy night. I was working on a cartoon based on that famous-for-being-kitschy painting, *Dogs Playing Poker* (Vol. 2, p. 423). I had to come up with a name for the artist. No use in checking the painting's history, I decided—*Dogs Playing Poker* is just one of those artifacts of American pop

culture that's always been around, right? It's just *Dogs Playing Poker* by the standard "artist unknown."

So I came up with the name "Gus Nickerson" for the long-forgotten artist. The cartoon gets published, years go by, and one morning I'm having breakfast and reading the *New York Times*, and wham!—there it is, front page: a human interest story about the life and times of Cassius Marcellus Coolidge, creator of *A Friend in Need*, the painting's real title, based on the fact that one dog is helping another cheat. Artist known.

Why did (and does) this bug me so much? Because these are the sort of small, arcane insights I enjoy capturing, like getting the right genus name on some insect. It wouldn't matter if only a handful of people would have discovered the cartoon's small "bonus." For me, that's what makes it fun. And in truth, it bugged me for another reason. If you think about it, *A Friend in Need* is arguably as famous (in this country, at least) as the *Mona Lisa* by what's-his-name, and I just didn't give Mr. Coolidge his proper due.

Then there's "Jimmy" Frankenstein (Vol. 1, p. 228). It jumped into my head that the mad scientist's name was "James Frankenstein." I have no explanation for this error. ("Jim Frankenstein" sounds more plausible as Victor's brother, who perhaps became a mad insurance salesman.)

Now allow me a brief excursion into the world of foreign translations. Here, the wheels can come off a cartoon completely and the whole shebang will plummet off a cliff in an entertaining ball of fire.

The translators usually are fairly successful at taking my sometimes very American clichés and expressions and finding their own native language equivalent. Of course, sometimes there's an impasse. And when a *cultural* gap opens up, well, that's when the fireball-over-the-cliff thing can happen. From Boot Hill to Eddie Haskell, some subjects just won't cut it in the *Le Journal Officiel de la Republique Française*.

Consider a cartoon I did on the subject of Babe the Blue Ox. (Vol. 1, p. 175). My German editors, naturally, had never heard of Paul Bunyan and his colorful sidekick. They took "blue" to mean "depressed." So in the German interpretation, hunters have mistaken the fabled animal for a big, "depressed" mule deer.

I'll simply show two other suggested translations below. These also are German, but I hasten to add that this problem wasn't unique to the Germans; I just liked these examples.

Original Caption

"Nik! The fireflies across the street—I think they're mooning us!"

Proposed Translation

"Nik! The fireflies across the street—I think they're trying to take the piss out of us!"

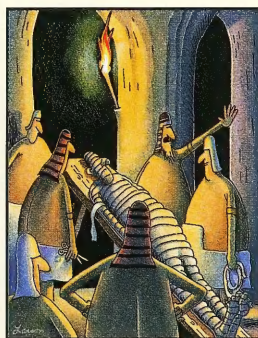


Original Caption

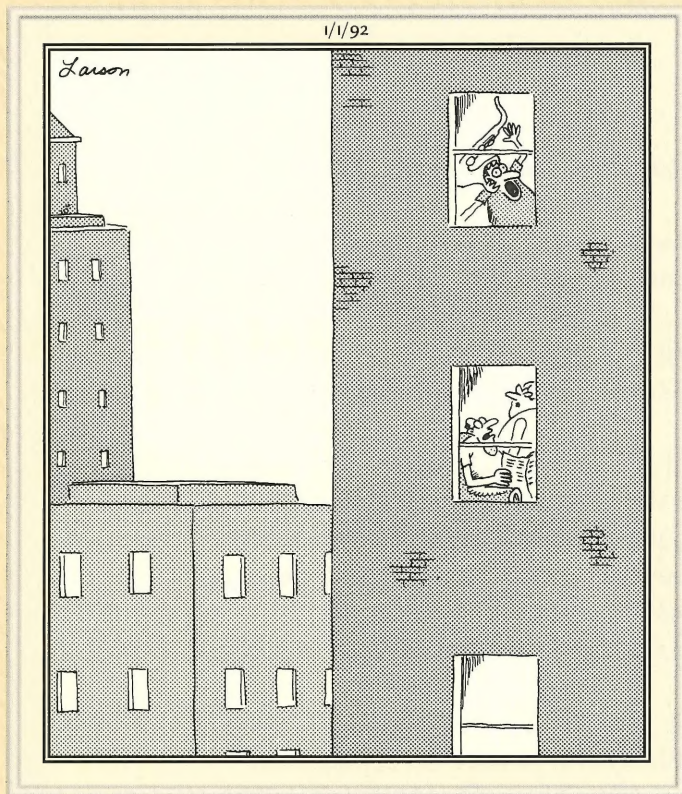
"Okay, folks! ... It's a wrap!"

Proposed Translation

"Okay, folks! ... The gift is ready!"



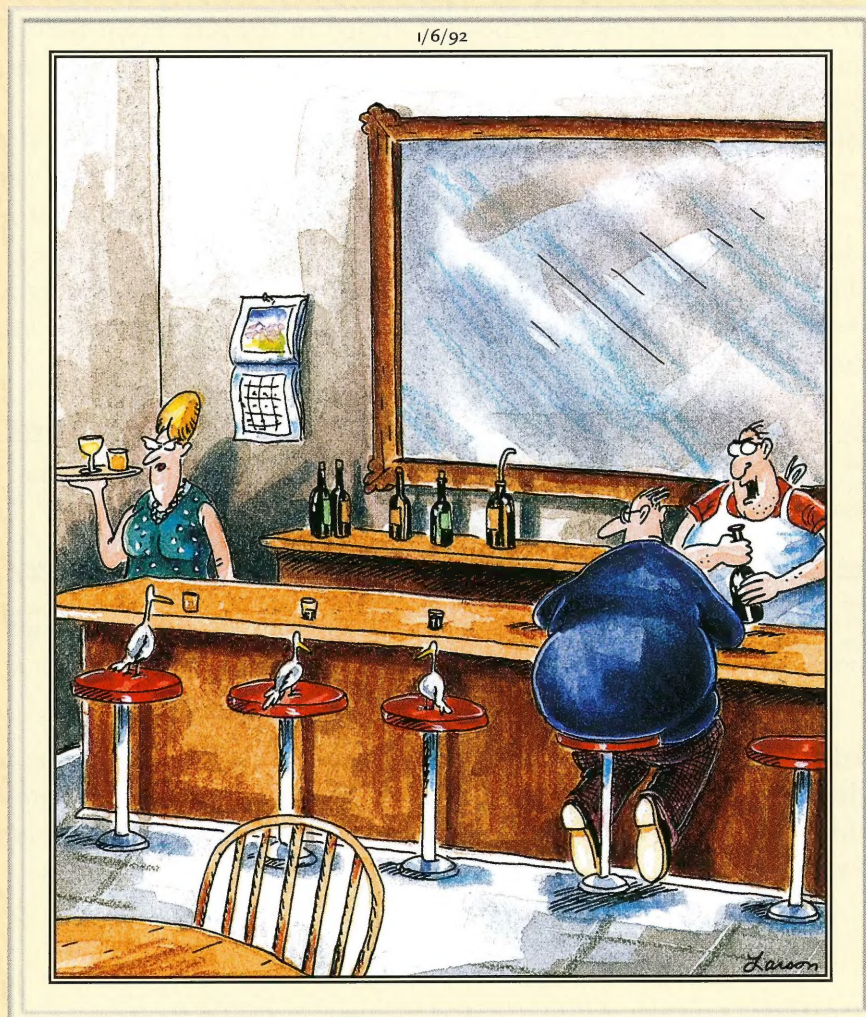
I need to call this a "wrap" myself. And I haven't even touched on the cartoons I drew that were simply misinterpreted. (Now we're moving into a theoretical volume four.) But, in the end, looking back at all the glitches, the near-misses, the gaffes, the should've/could'ves, I'm content. You know, ink happens.



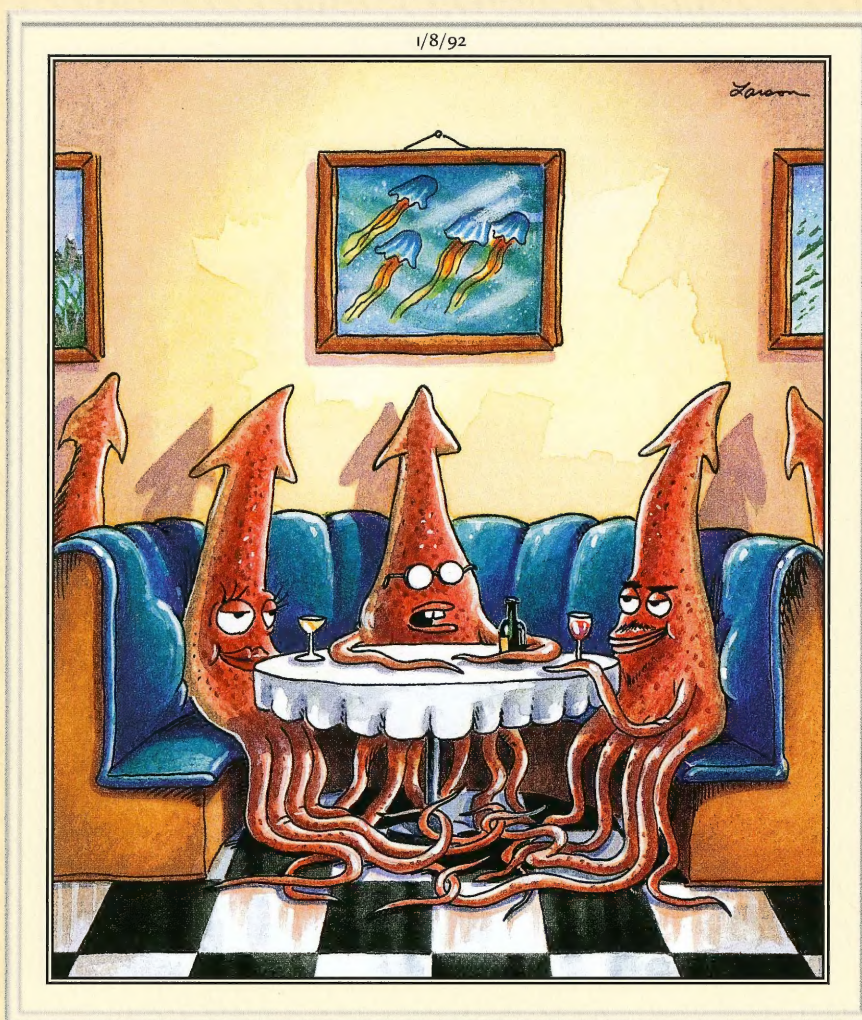
"Whoa! Listen to that, Marge! ... I said that kid was playing a mean sax!"



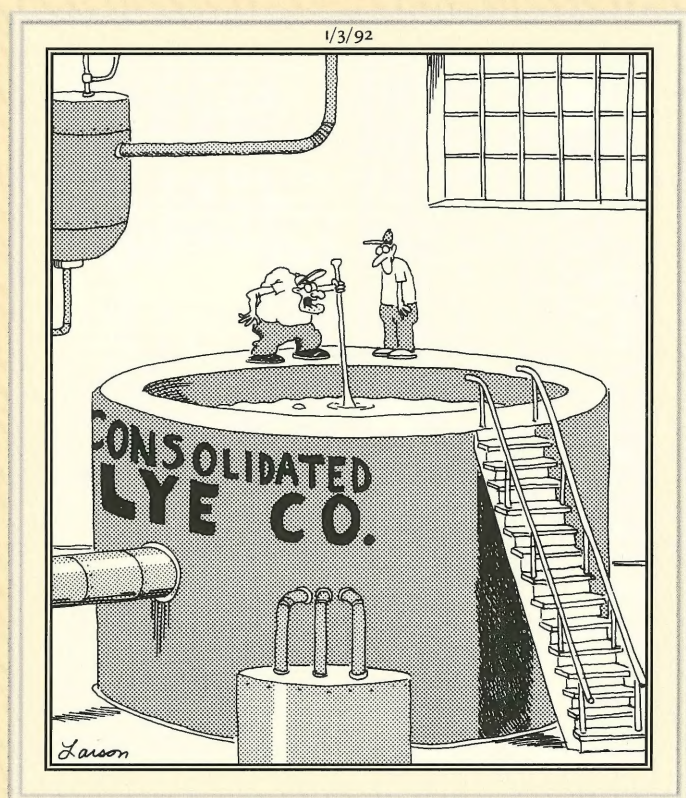
"Those snakes? Oh, they're just signing, honey."



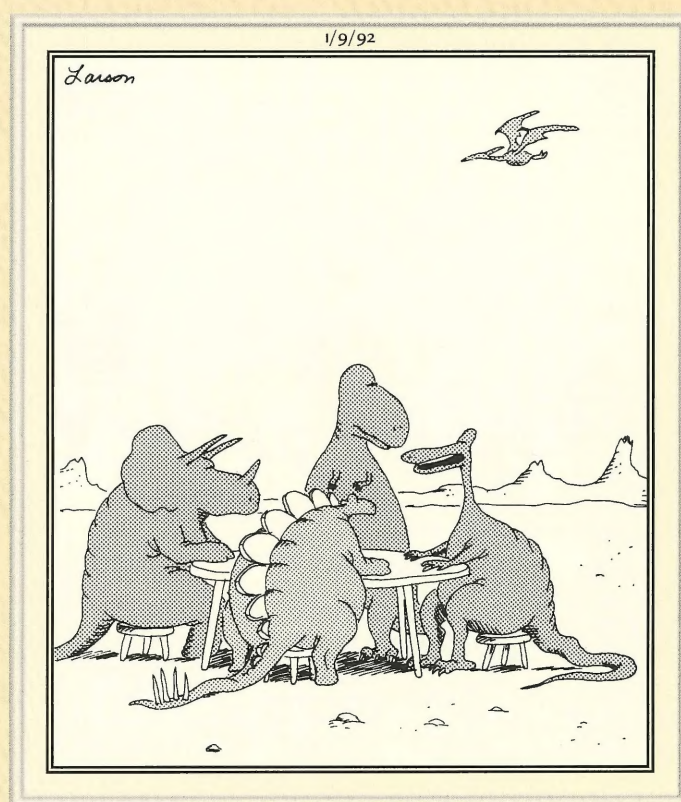
"I hate 'em. They mess on the stools, they attack the mirror and—of course—they drink like birds."



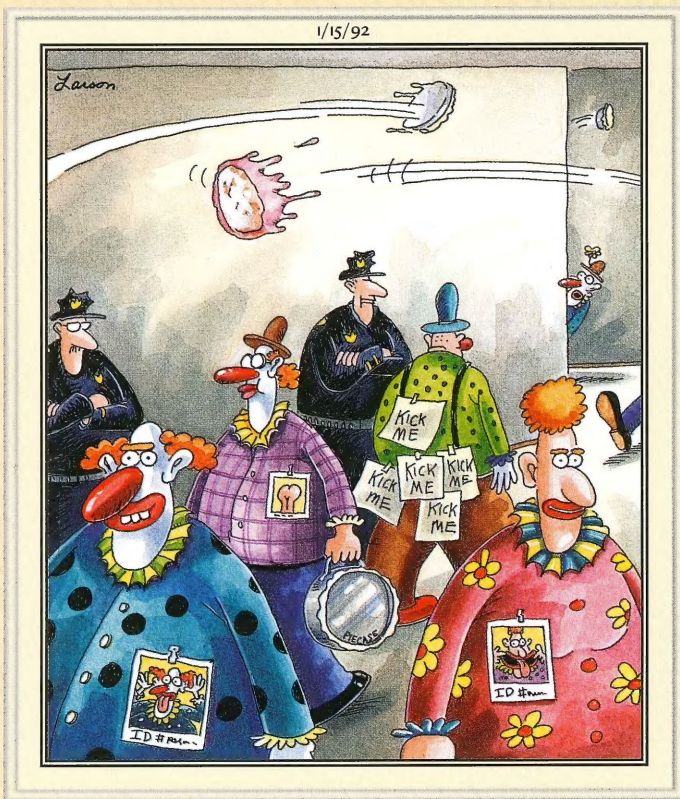
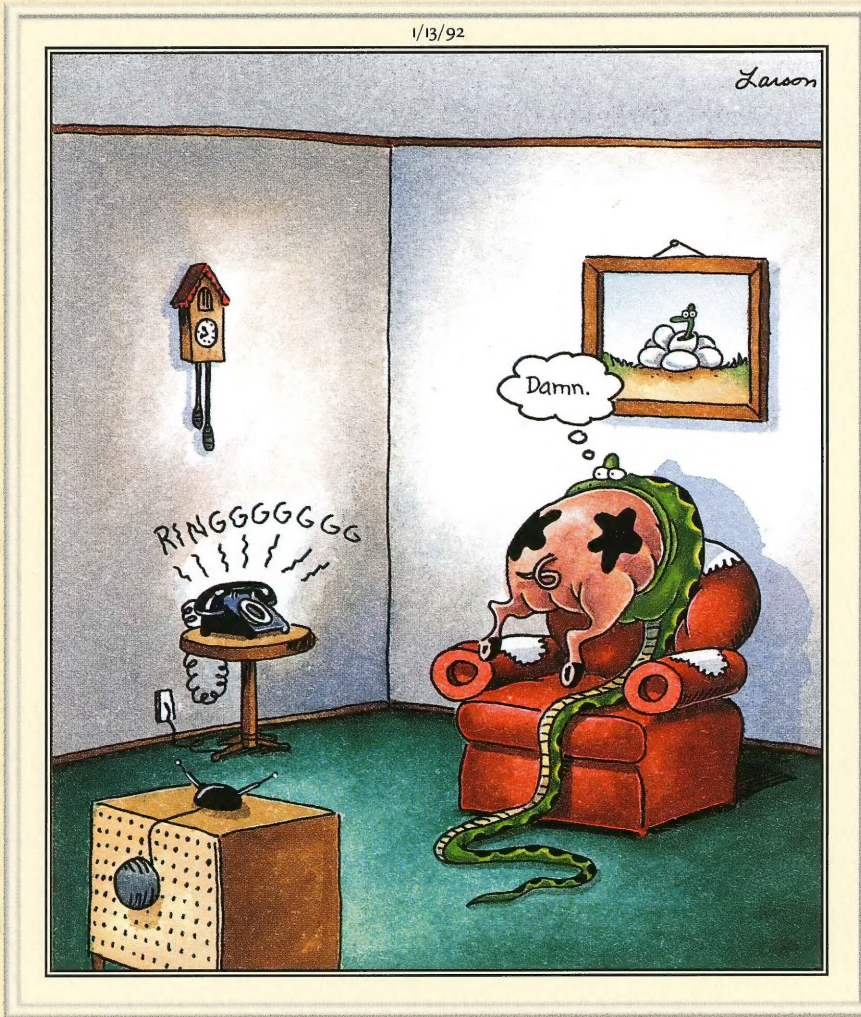
Darren was unaware that, under the table, his wife and Raymond were playing "tentacles."



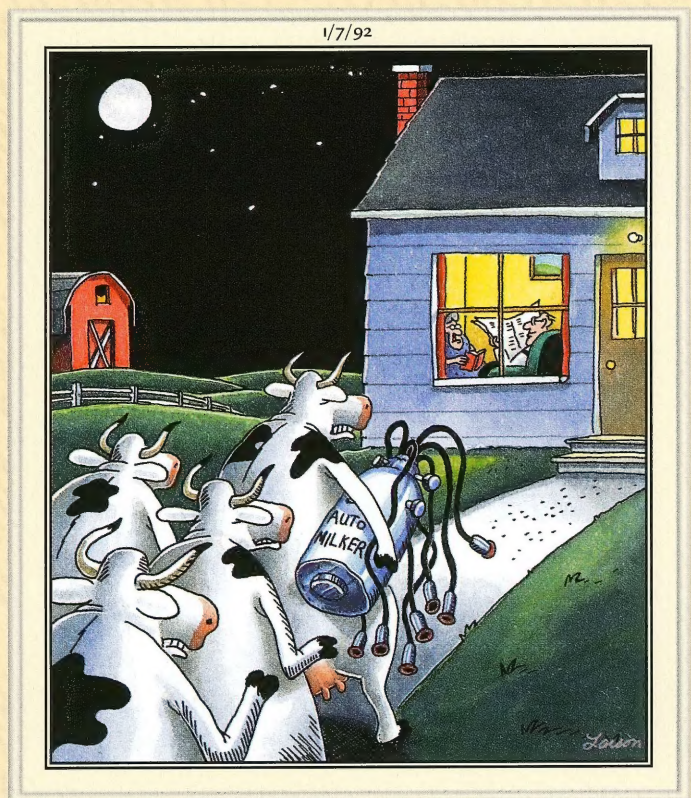
"New guy, huh? Well, up here, you walk the edge! And the edge is a fickle hellcat. ... Love her, but never trust her, for her heart is full of lye!"



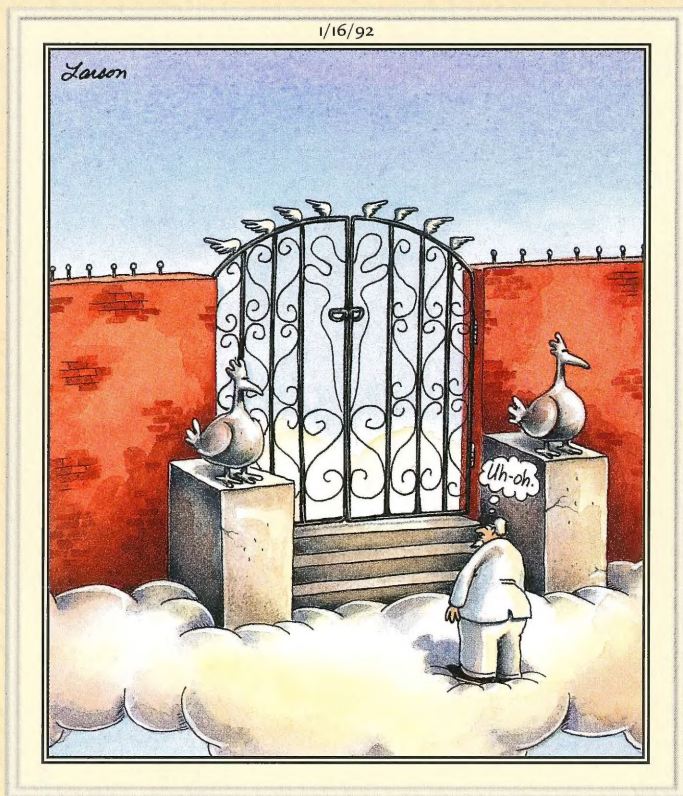
"Well, time for our weekly brainstorm-storming session."



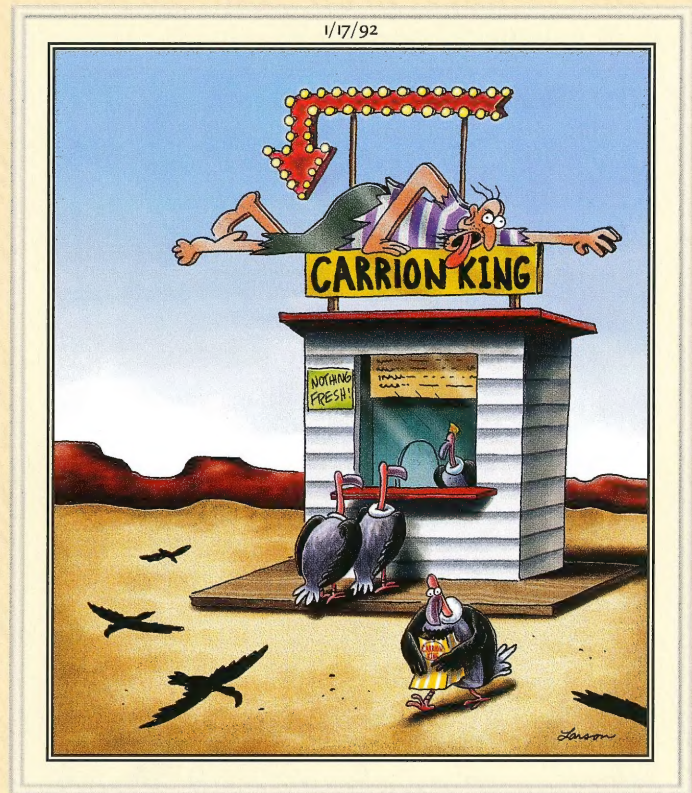
In the corridors of Clowngress



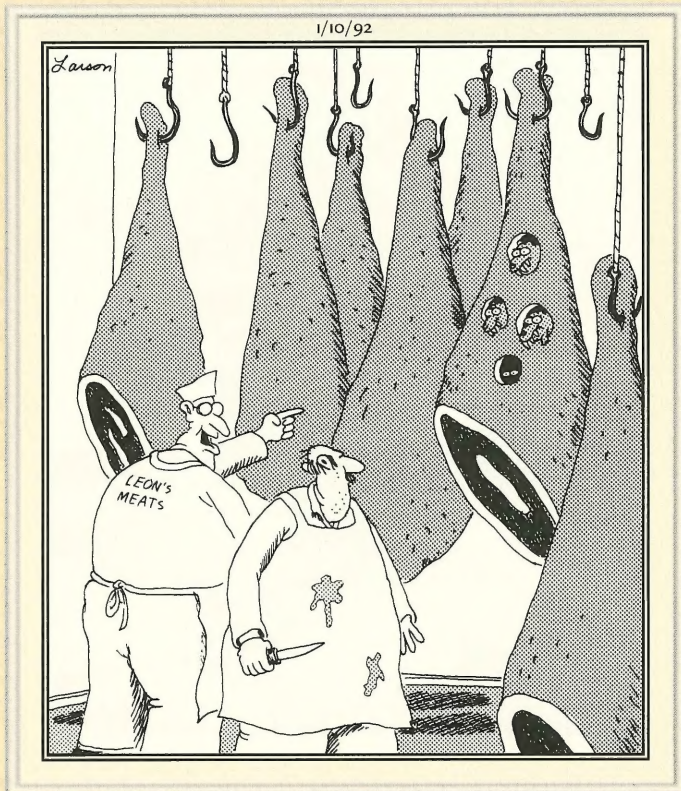
That night, their revenge was meted out on both Farmer MacDougal and his wife. The next day, police investigators found a scene that they could describe only as “grisly, yet strangely hilarious.”



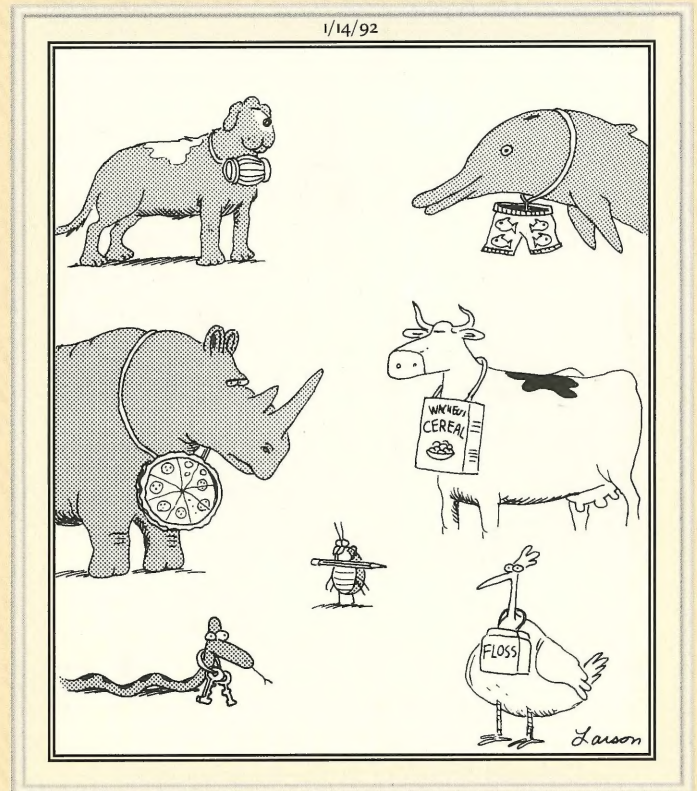
Colonel Sanders at the Pearly Gates



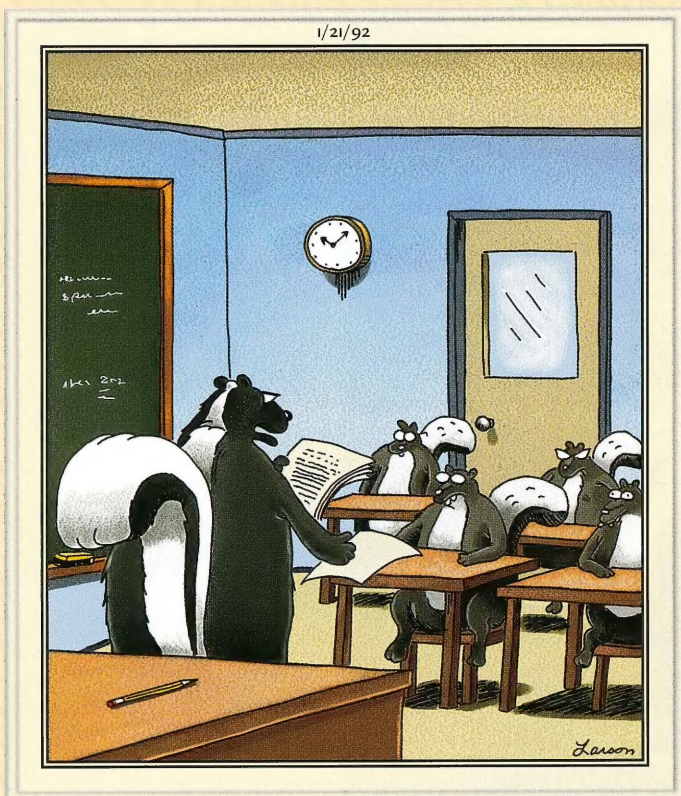
"And here's the jewel of my collection, purchased for a king's ransom from a one-eyed man in Istanbul. ...
I give you—Zuzu's petals."



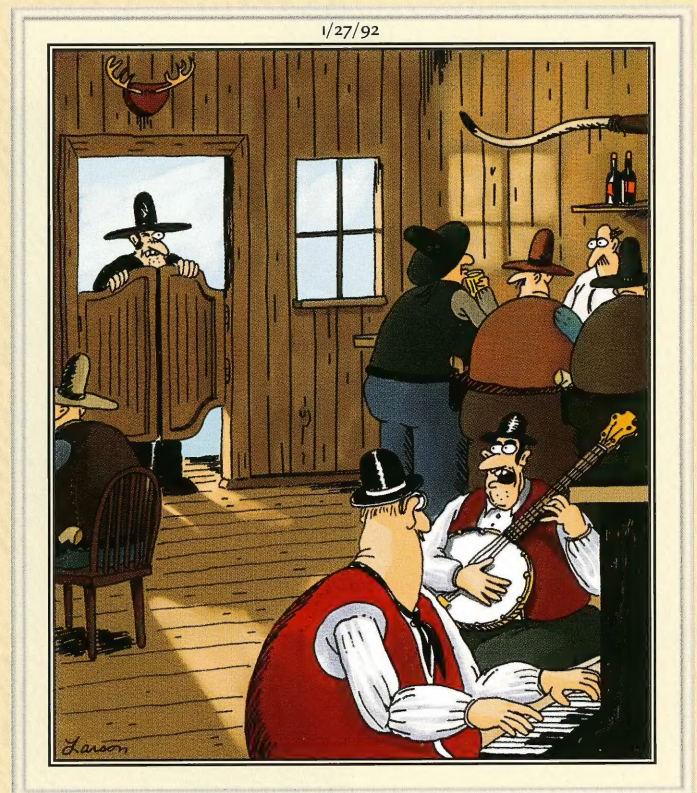
"Ooo! Look, Leon! An entire family of meatchucks!"



Some of our more common rescue animals



"Okay, let's start the exam. Stinking caps on, everyone—stinking caps on."



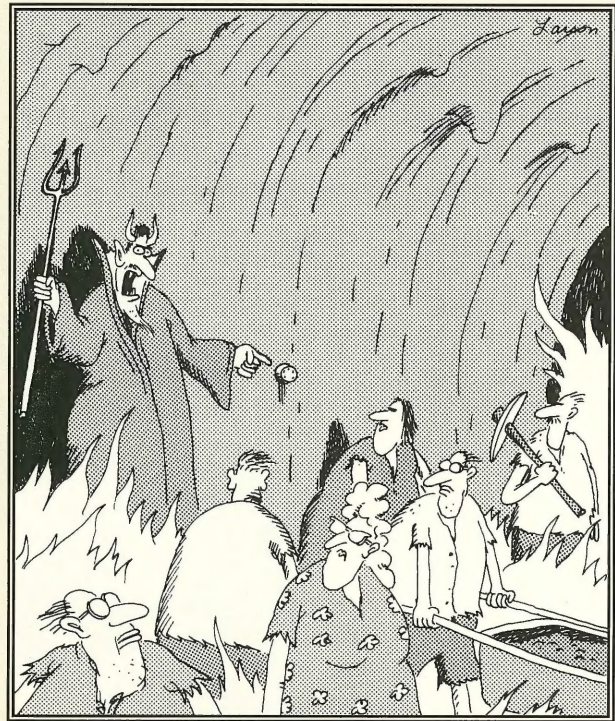
"Bad guy comin' in, Arnie! ... Minor key!"

1/22/92



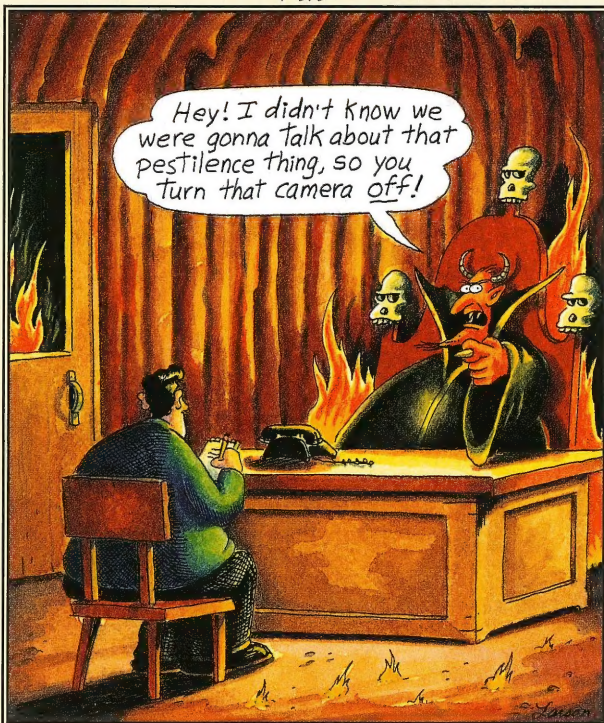
"I don't have any hard evidence, Connie, but my intuition tells me that Ed's been cross-pollinating."

1/23/92



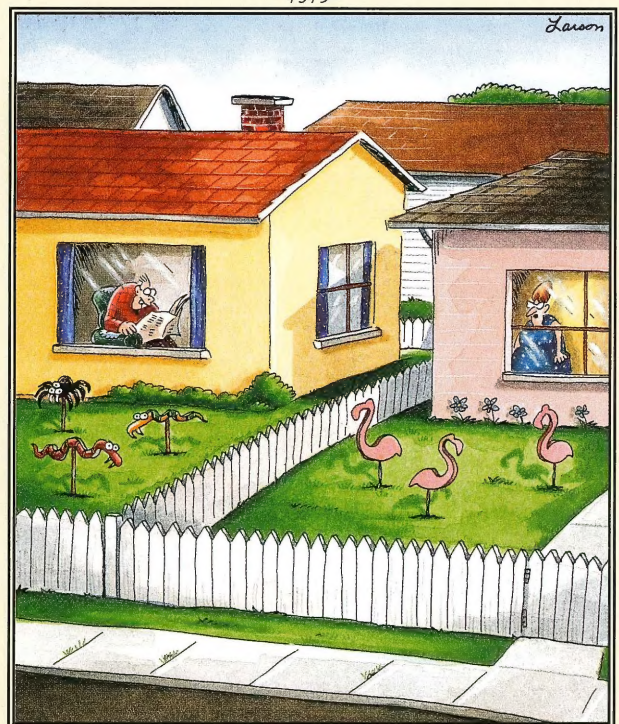
"Hey! Hey! Hey! ... Who's the wise guy that just turned down the thermostat?"

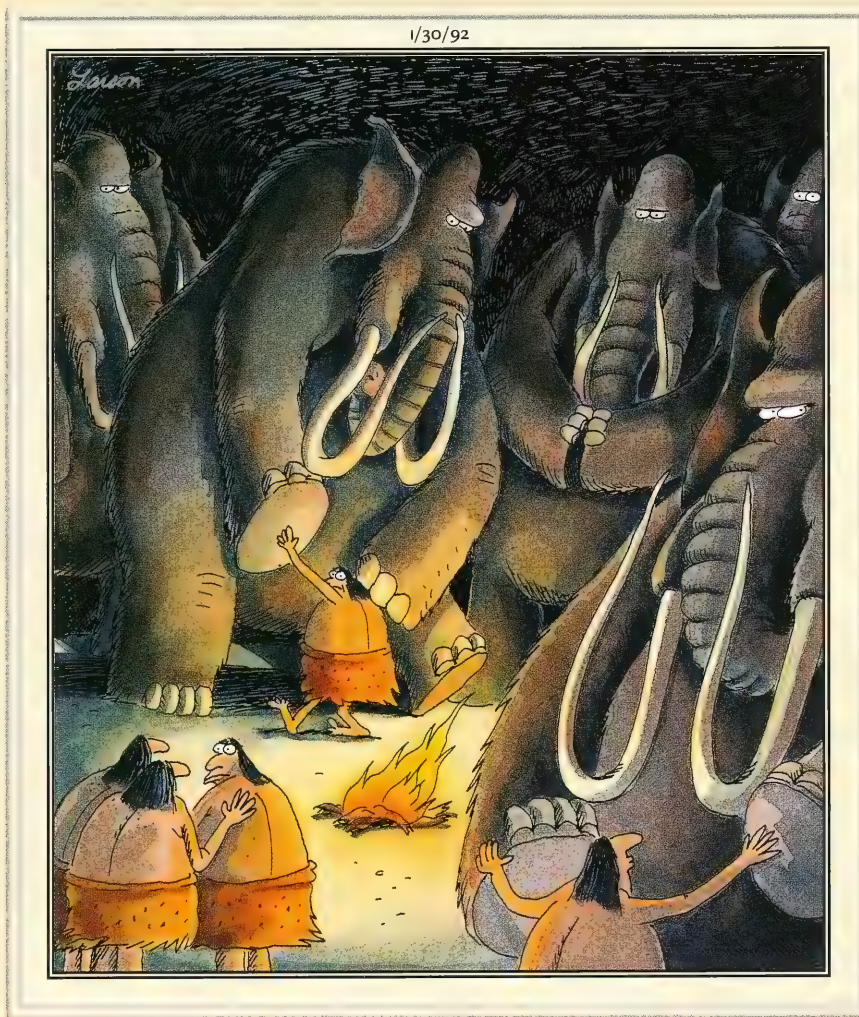
1/29/92



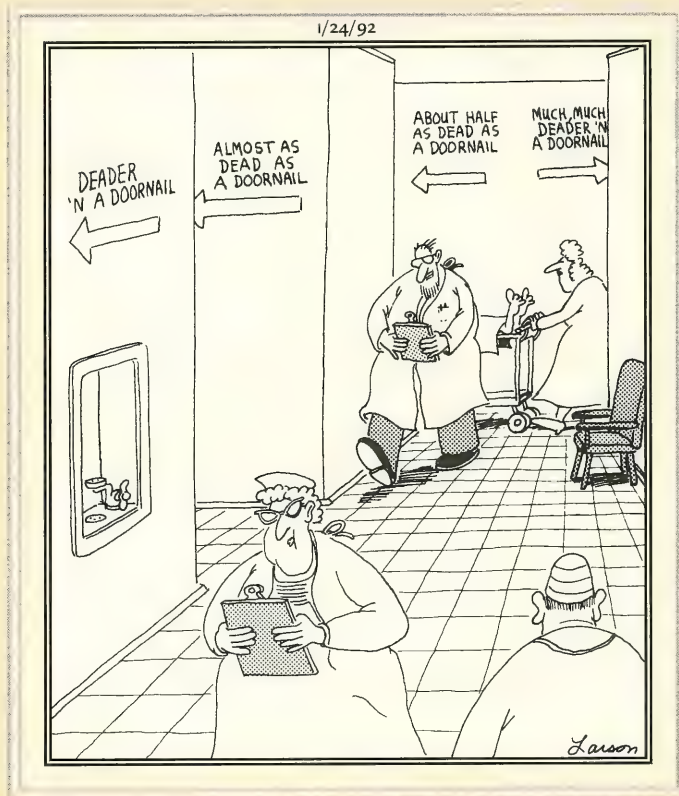
Mike Wallace interviews the devil.

1/31/92





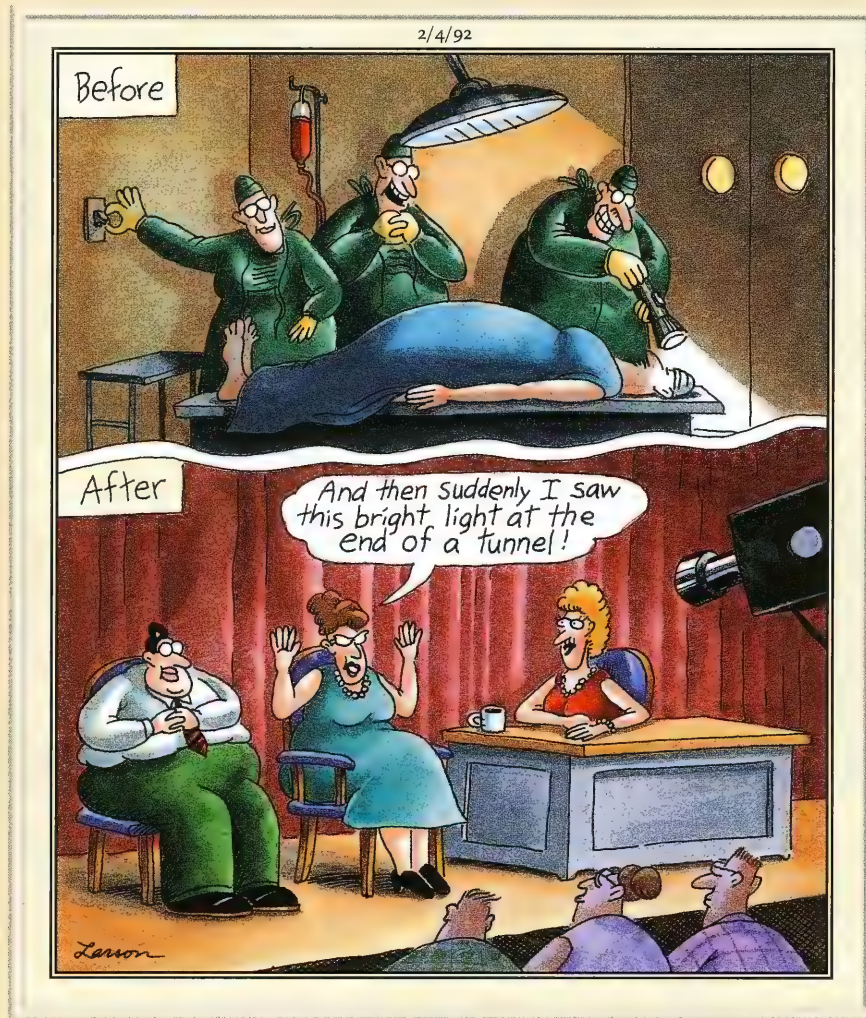
Tomorrow, they would be mortal enemies. But on the eve of the great hunt, feelings were put aside for the traditional Mammoth Dance.



Hospitals to avoid



Inside tours of Acme Fake Vomit, Inc.

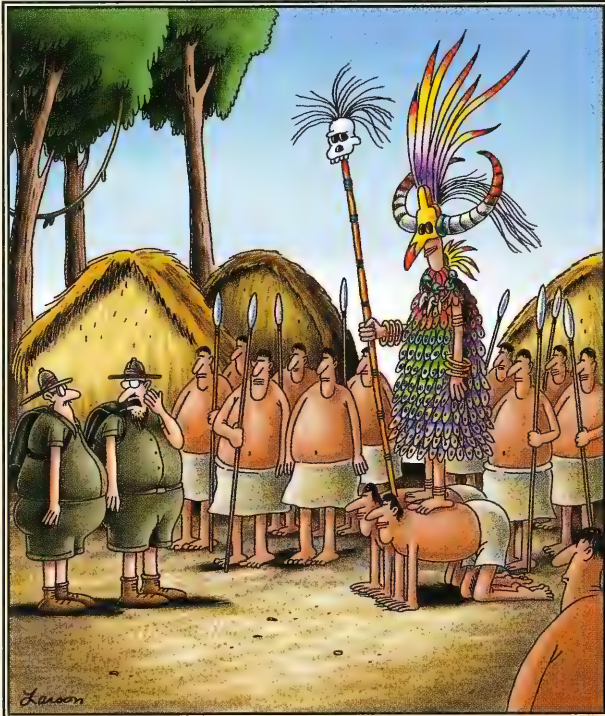


"We don't know exactly who he is, Captain—a disgruntled worker, we figure."



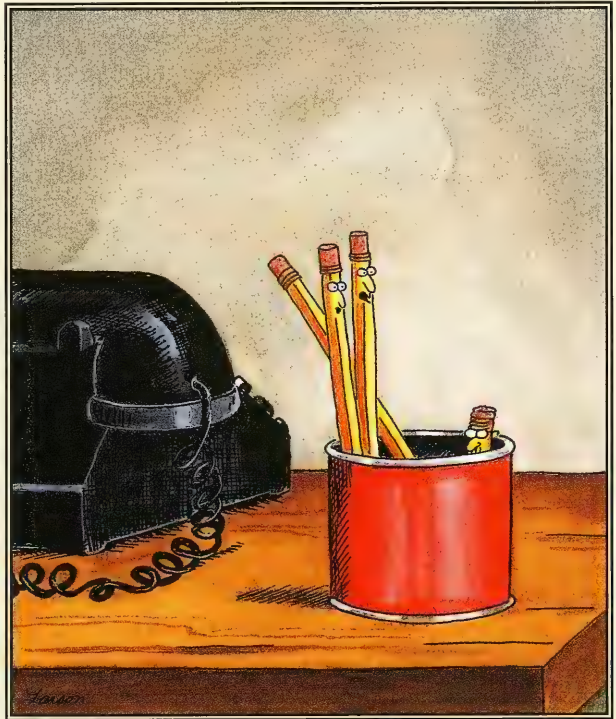
The Samson family at home

2/5/92



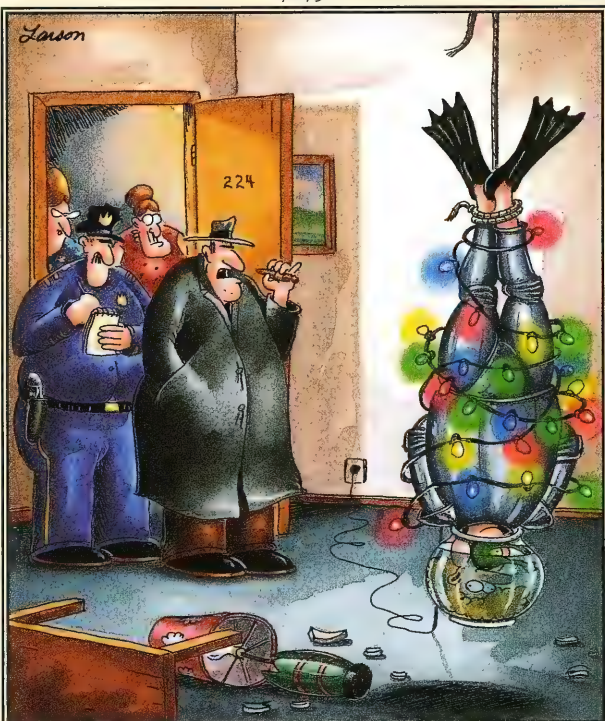
"Hey ... this could be the chief."

2/6/92



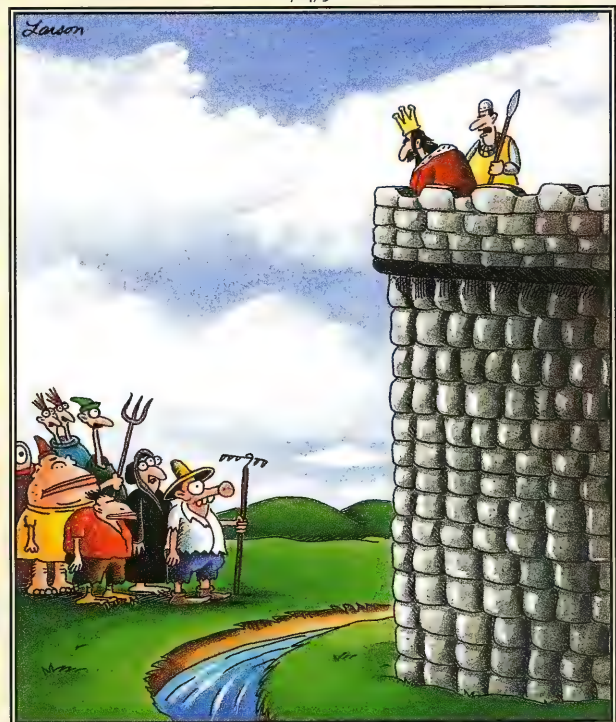
"Man, *there's* an old-timer with one foot in the wastebasket."

2/10/92



"Same as the others, O'Neill. The flippers, the fishbowl, the frog, the lights, the armor. ... Just one question remains: Is this the work of our guy, or a copycat?"

2/14/92



"Those, sire, are the uncommon folk."

2/11/92

Lawson



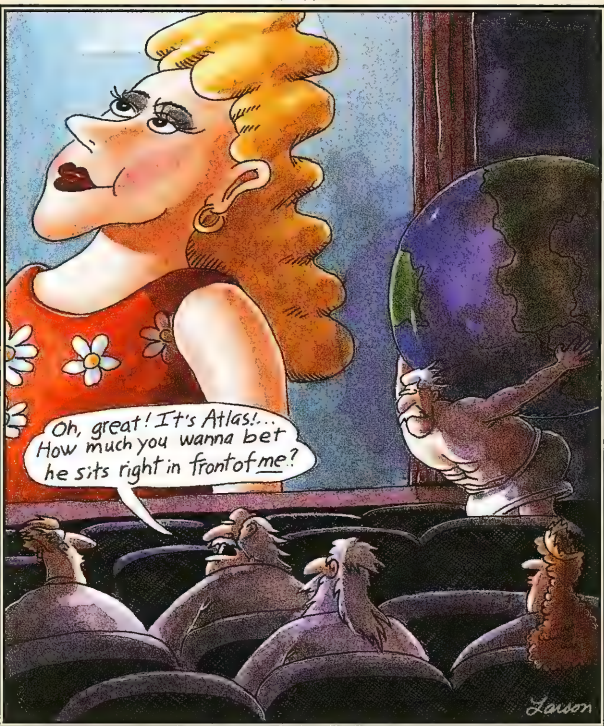
Primitive résumés

2/20/92



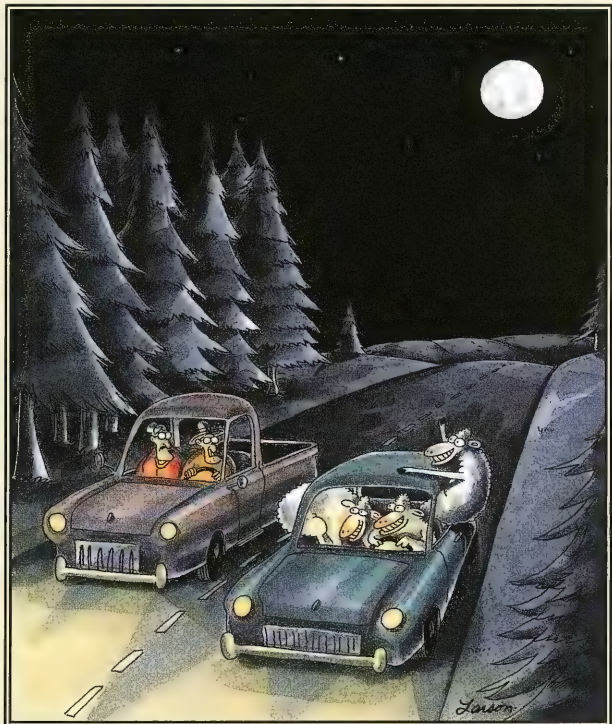
"Hey! So I made the wrong decision! ... But you know, I really wasn't sure I wanted to swing on a star, carry moonbeams home in a jar!"

2/18/92



Theater of the gods

2/19/92



Sheep that pass in the night

2/12/92



2/13/92

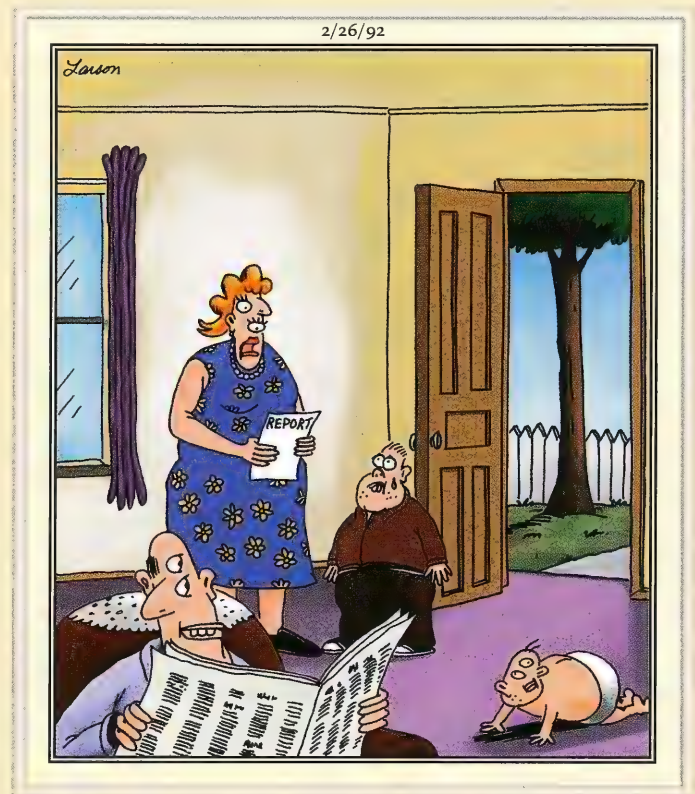


2/17/92

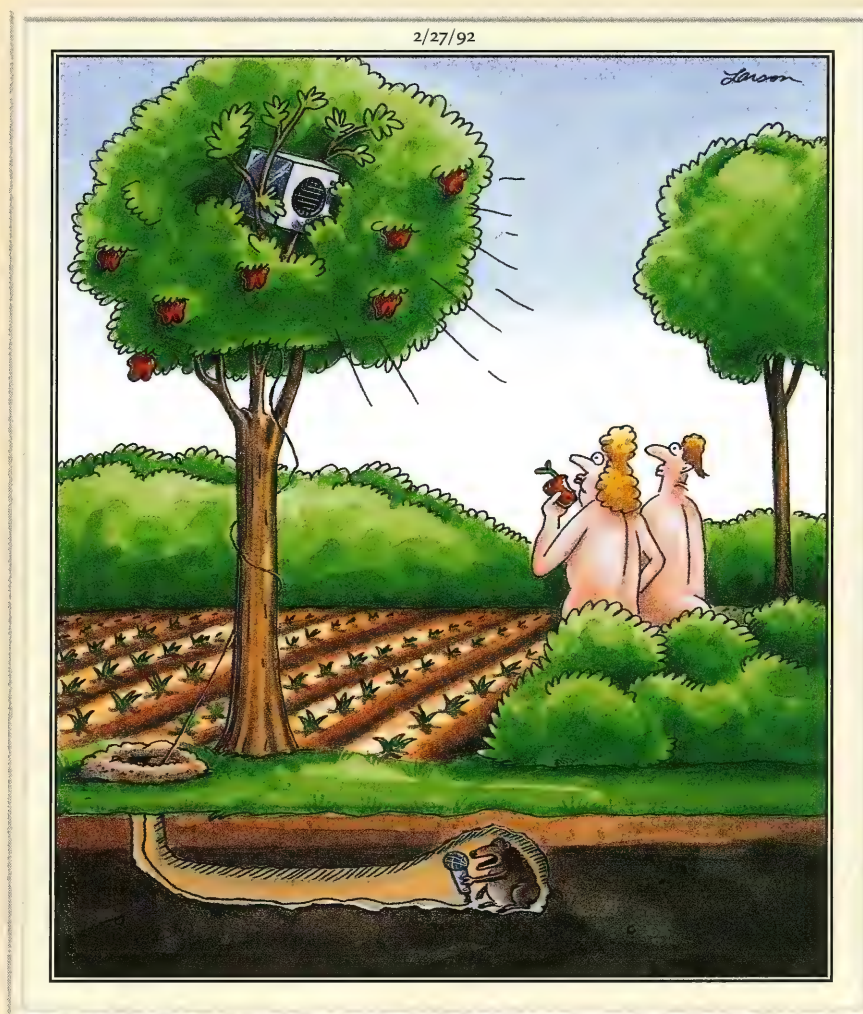




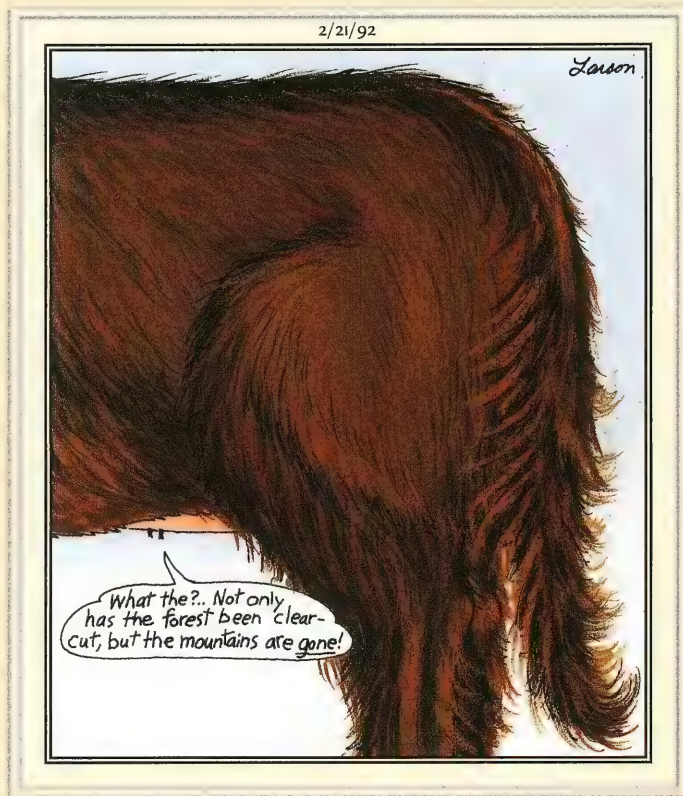
Centaur rodeos



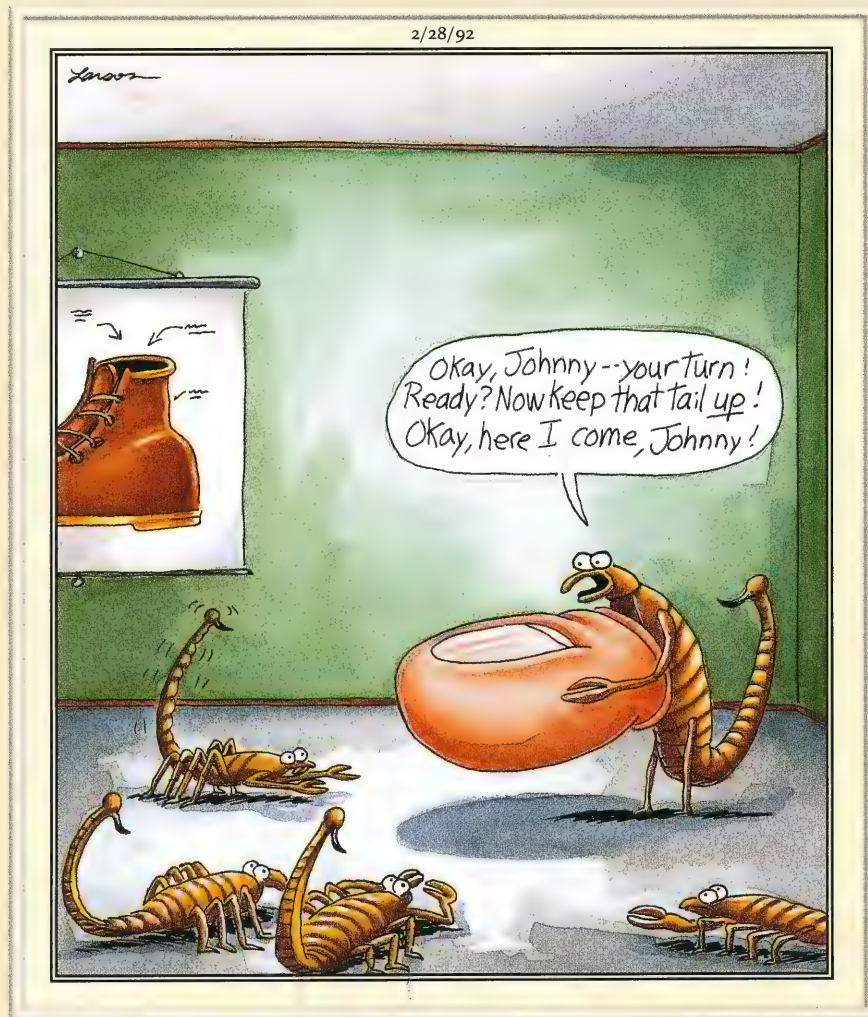
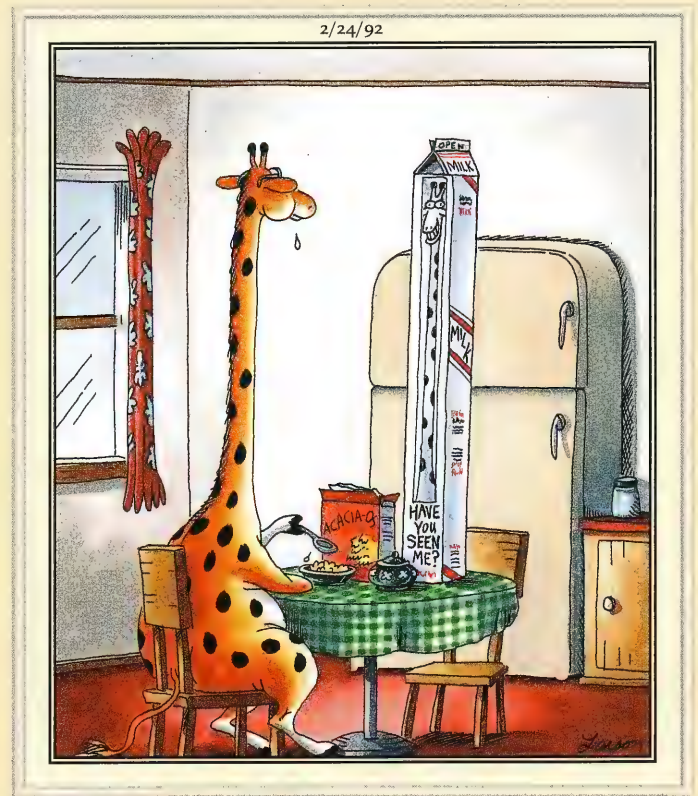
"Good heavens! Pablo got an 'F' in art! ... Well, I'm just going to go down to that school myself and meet this teacher face to face!"



"Eat my apple, will you? LEAVE MY GARDEN! BEGONE! ... And take all the mole traps with you!"



Environmental disasters in a flea's world



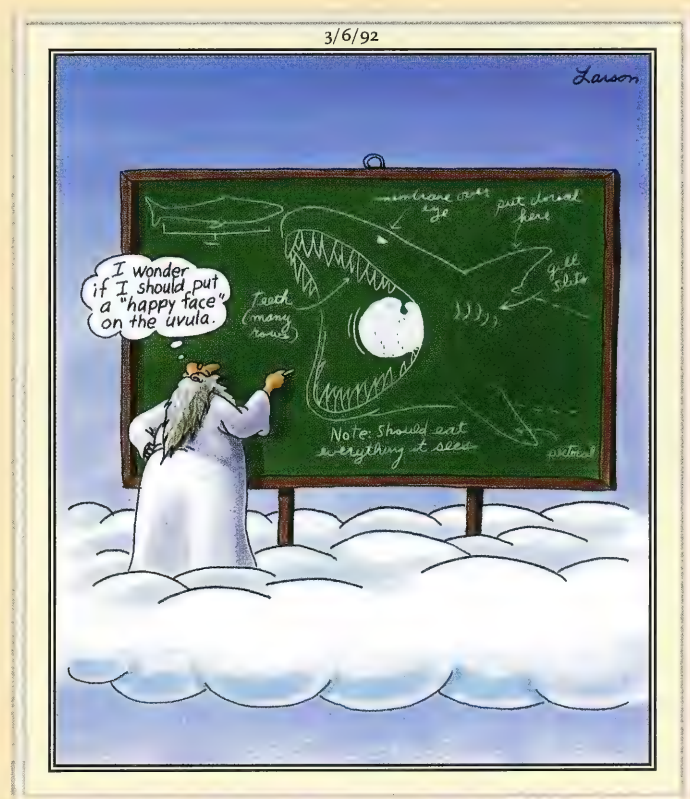
Scorpion school



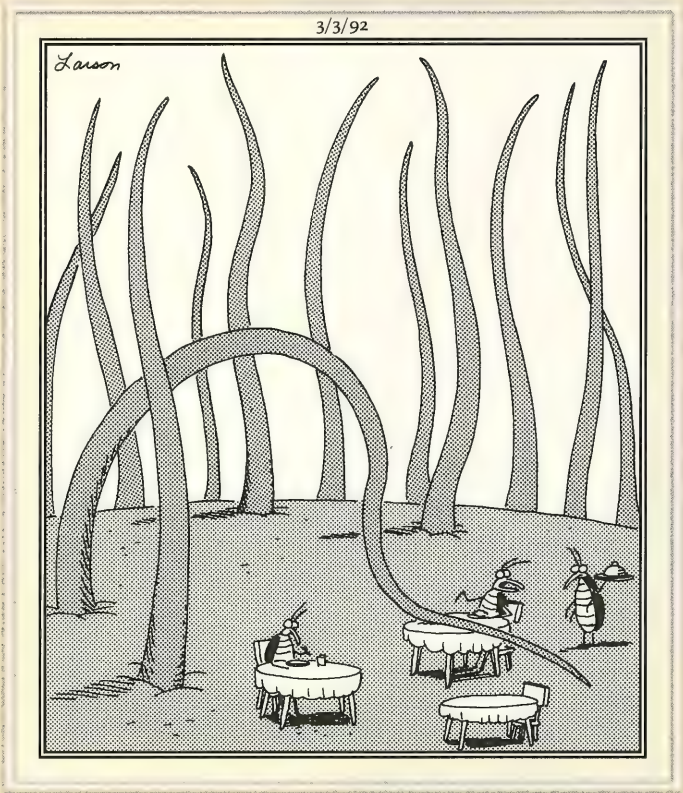
"Oh my God! It's Yvonne!"



"Oh, Misty always hates me showing this slide. ... It's halftime at the '88 Detroit-Chicago game when we first met."



God designs the great white shark.



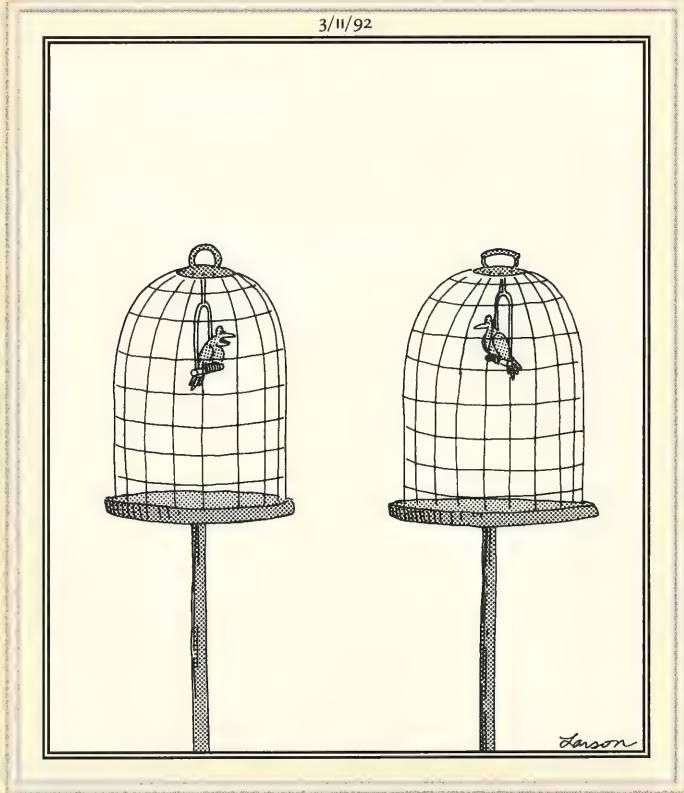
“Waiter, is that a *hair* in my salad?”



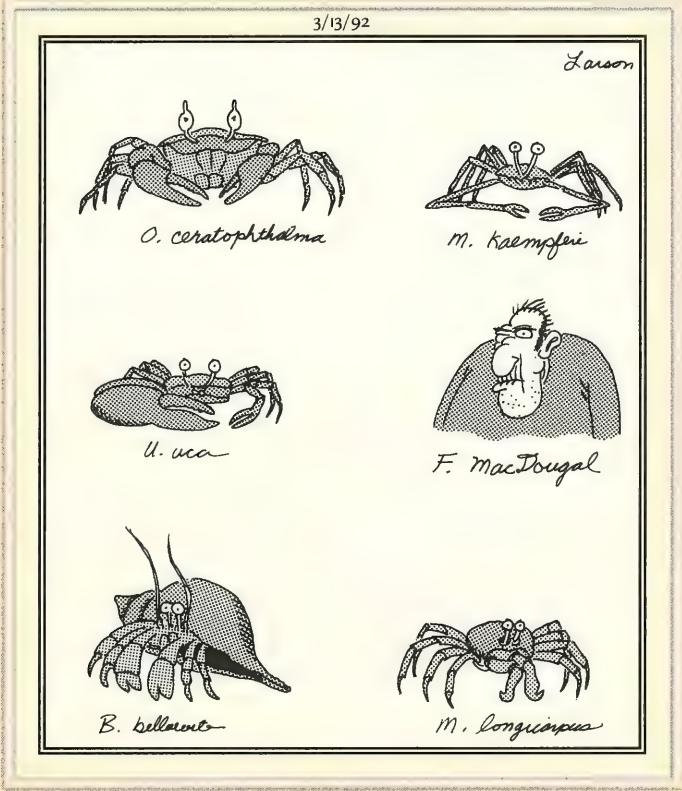
In Saddam Hussein’s war room



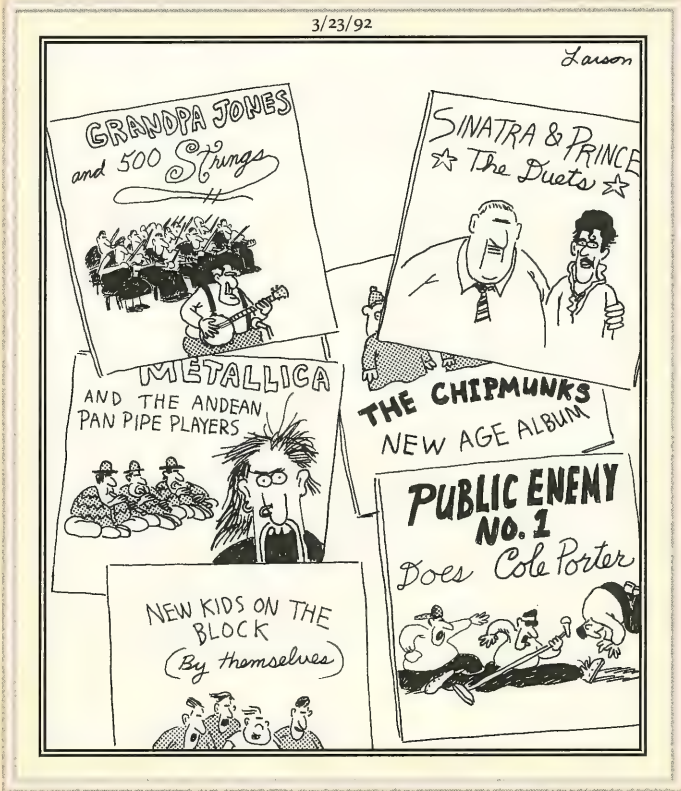
In an ancient custom of retribution, the ranger Mafia sends Ted to “sleep with the bears.”



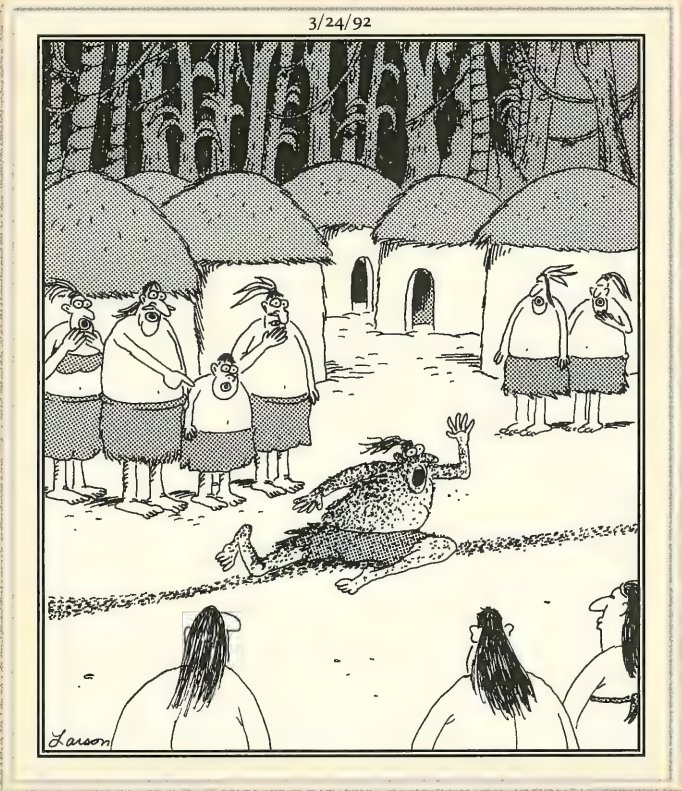
“Oh, yeah? Well, maybe I’ll just come over there and rattle *your* cage!”



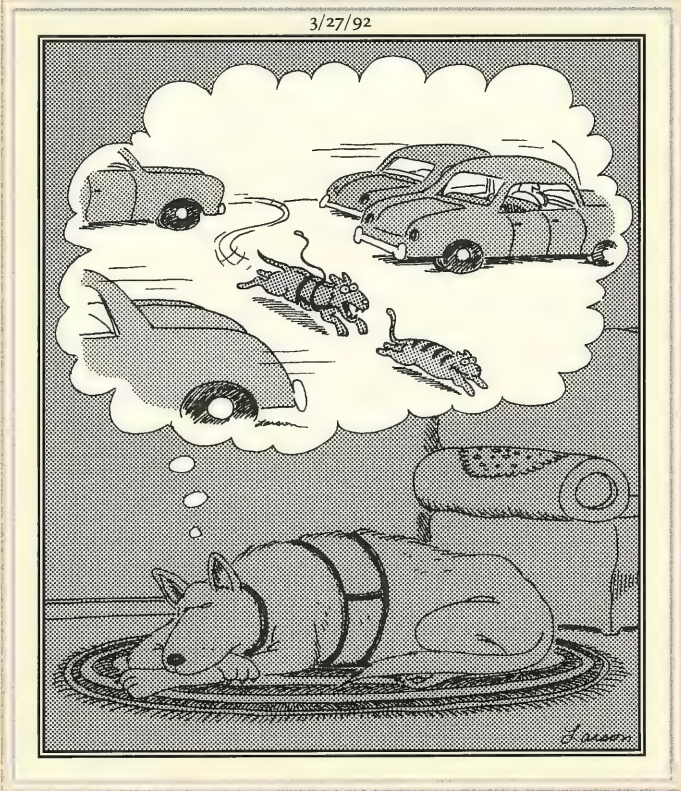
Some of our common crabs



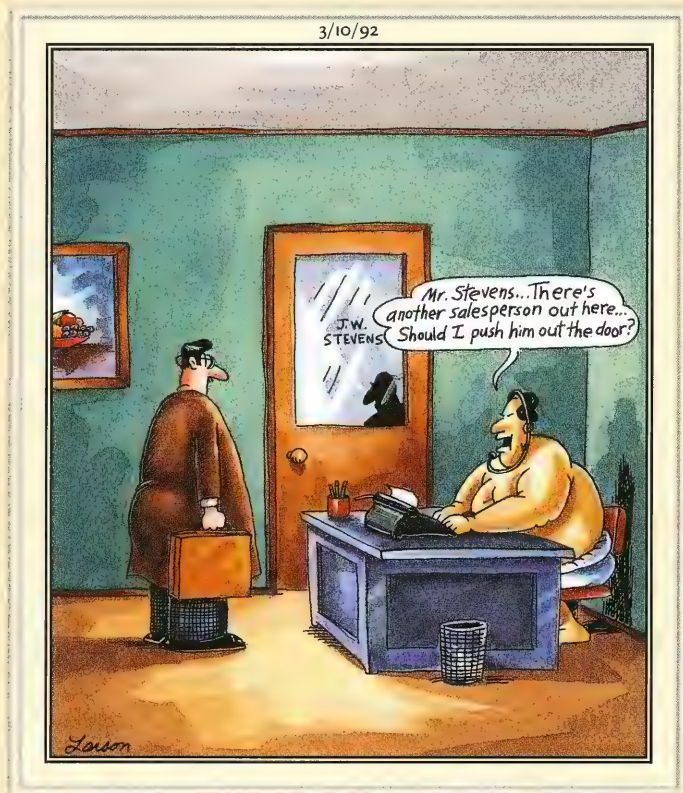
Albums to avoid



Crossing the village, Mowaka is overpowered by army ants. (Later, bystanders were all quoted as saying they were horrified, but “didn’t want to get involved.”)



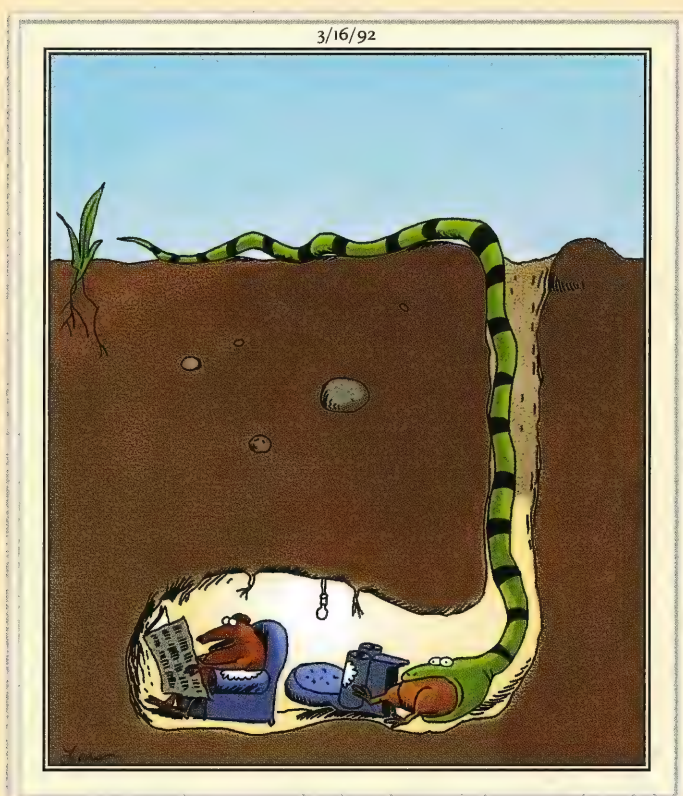
When Seeing Eye dogs dream



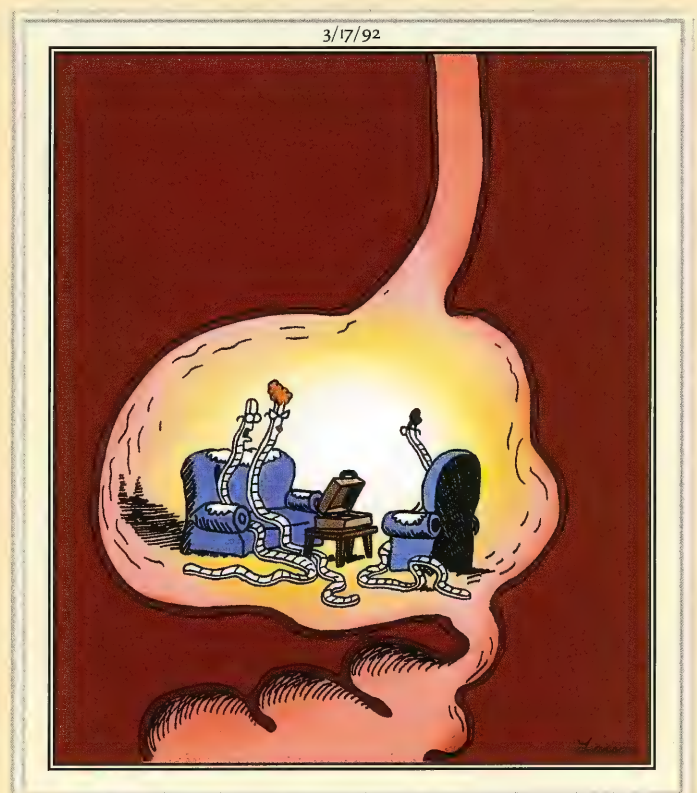
Sumo temporaries



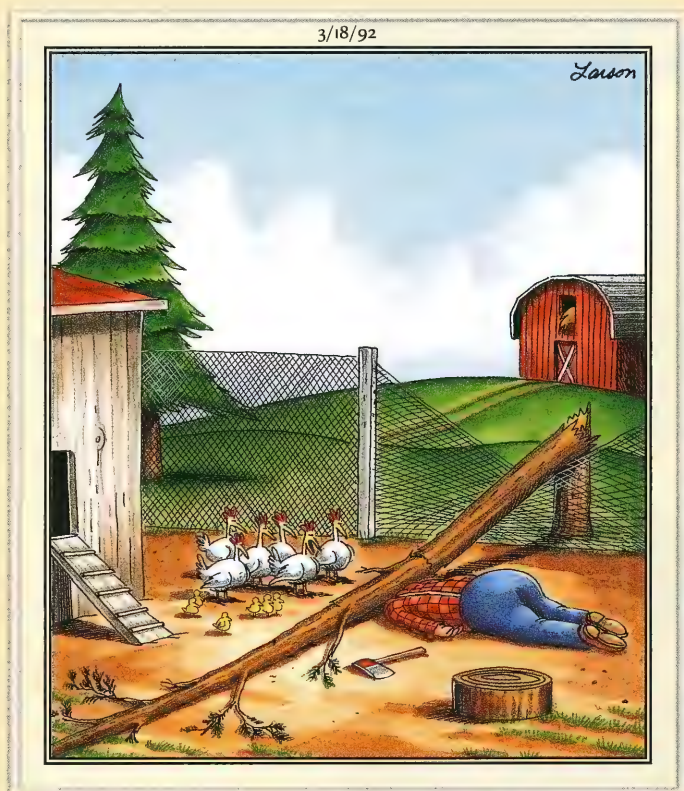
Lacking a horse, Jed was compelled to just drift along with the tumbling tumbleweed.



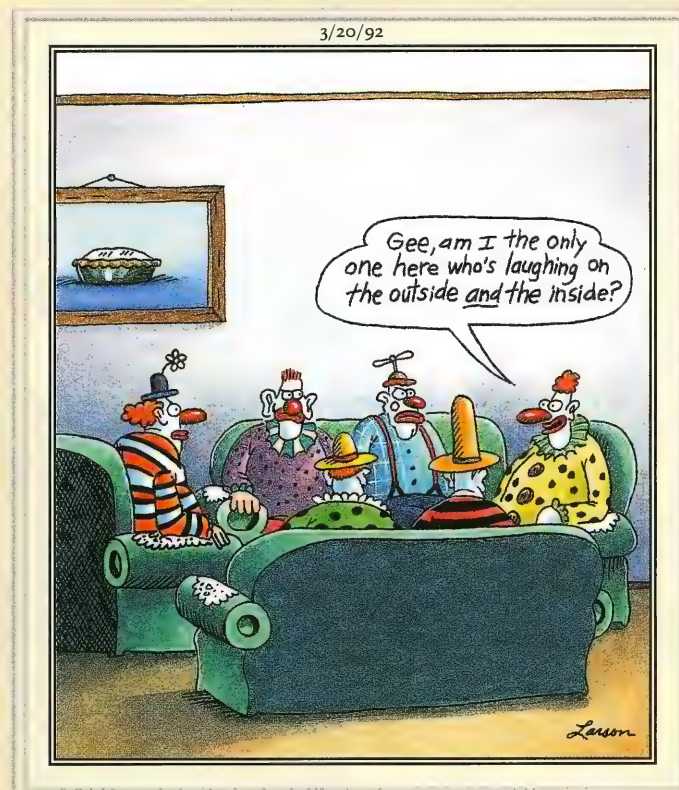
"Well, I'll be darned. ... Says here 70 percent of all accidents happen in the hole."



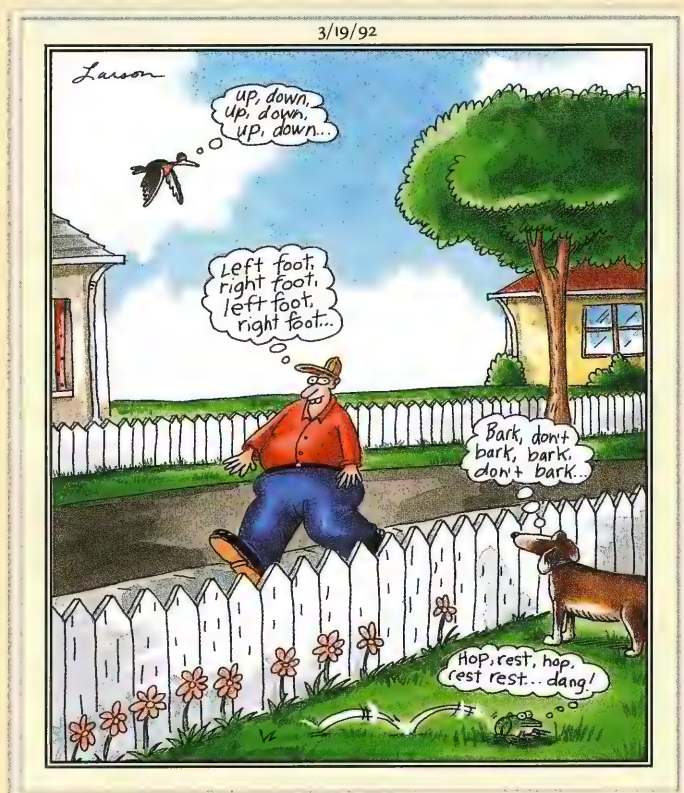
"Well, I'm not sure we can afford stomach insurance—right now we're trying to put the kids through the small intestine."



“Lord, we thank thee.”



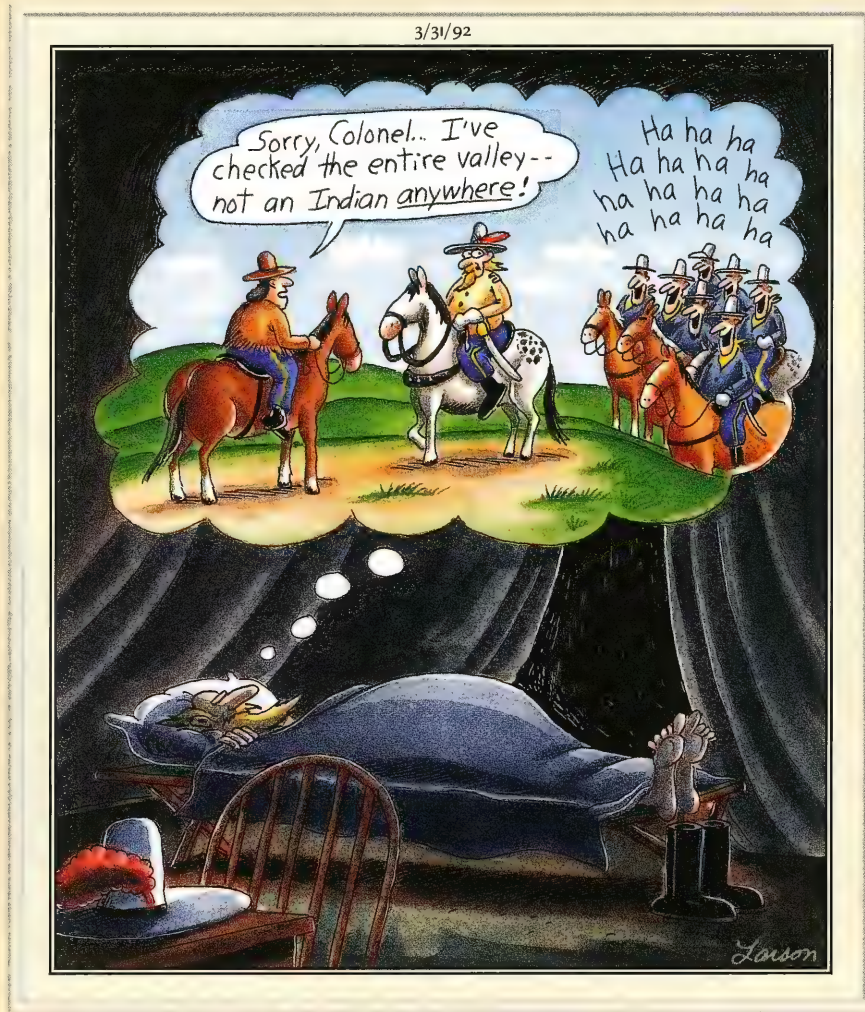
Clown therapy sessions



Basic lives



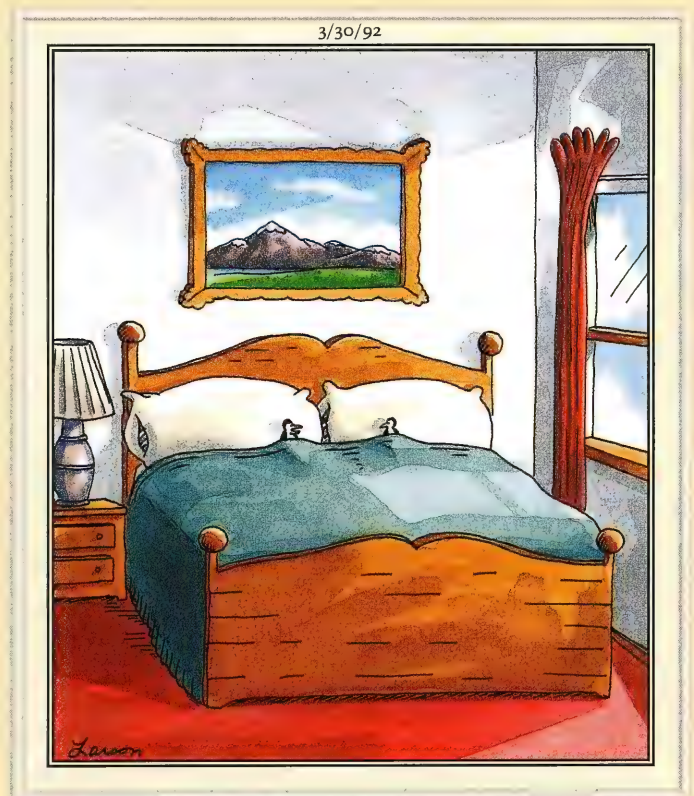
Donning his new canine decoder, Professor Schwartzman becomes the first human being on Earth to hear what barking dogs are actually saying.



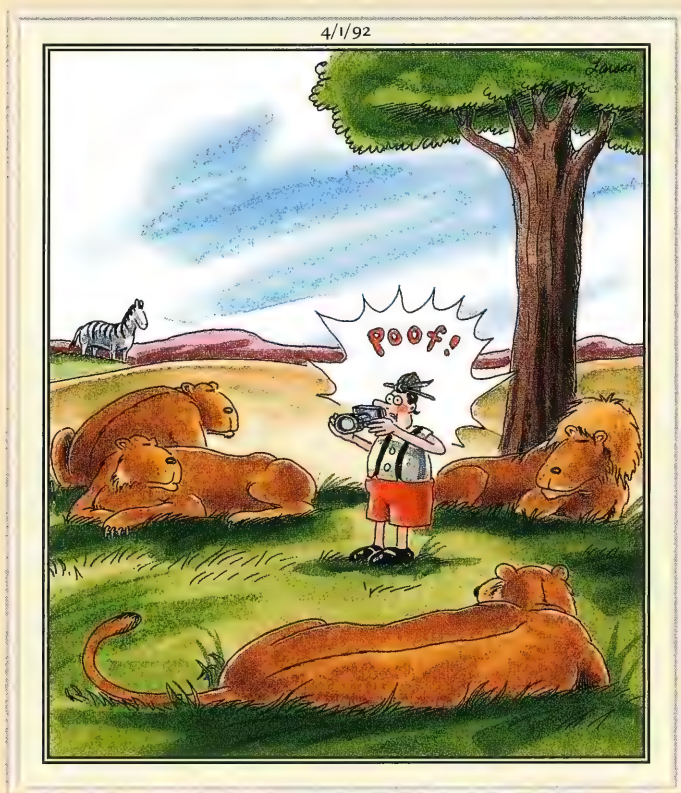
Custer's recurrent nightmare



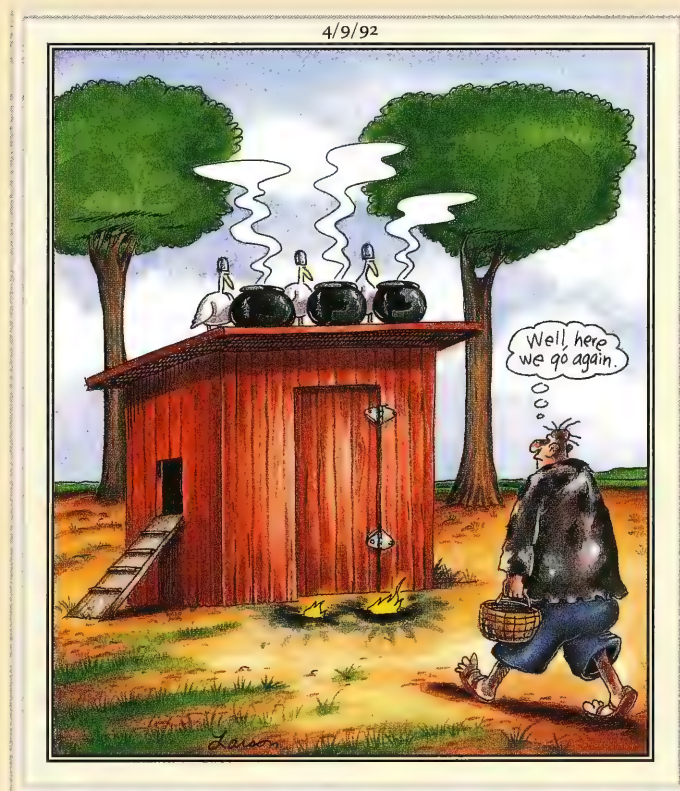
Rhino recitals



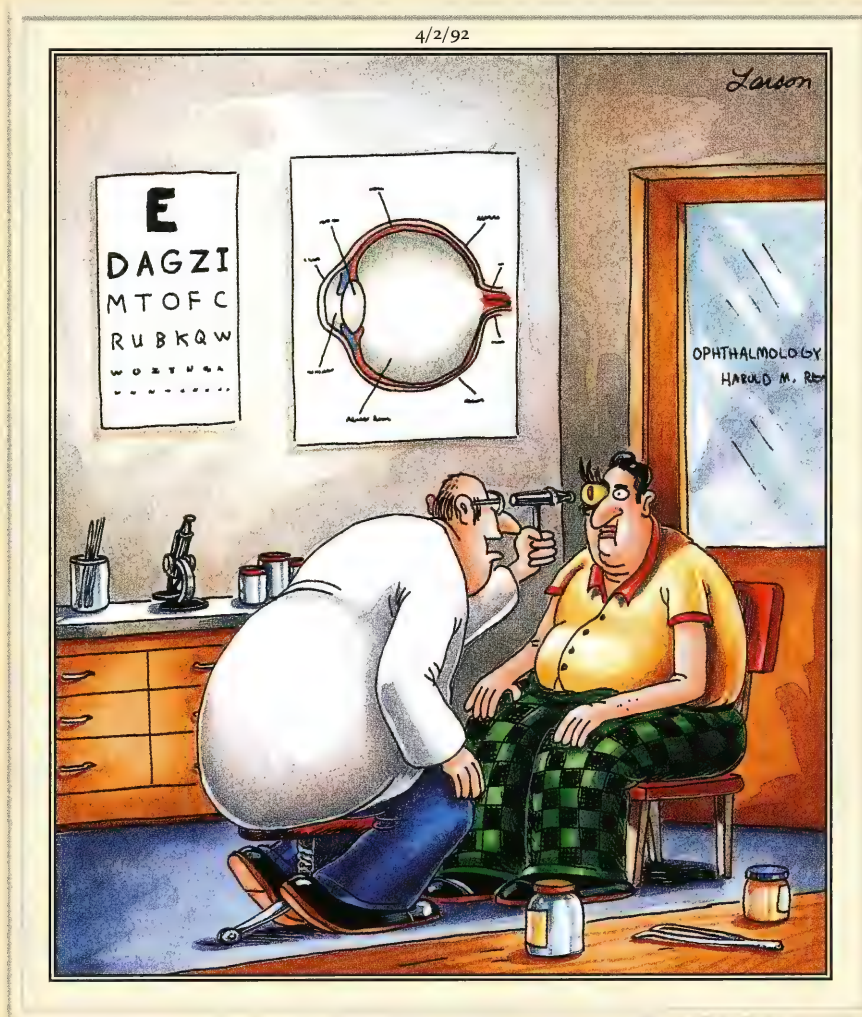
"Well, here we are, my little chickadee."



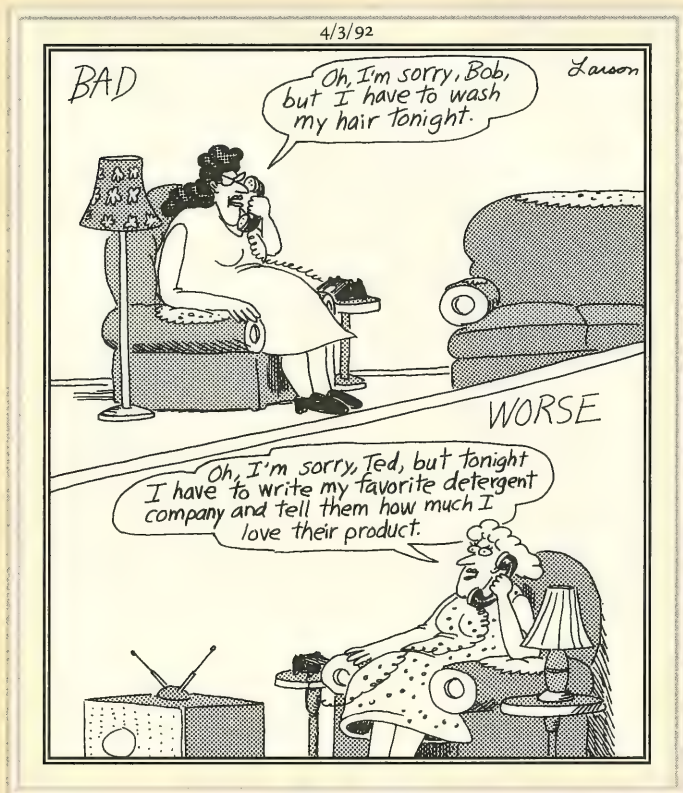
While vacationing in Africa, Pinocchio had his longtime wish to be a real boy suddenly and unexpectedly granted.



Medieval chicken coops



"Oh, this is wonderful, Mr. Gruenfeld—I've only seen it a couple of times. You have corneal corruption. ... Evil eye, Mr. Gruenfeld, evil eye."



Date rejection lines

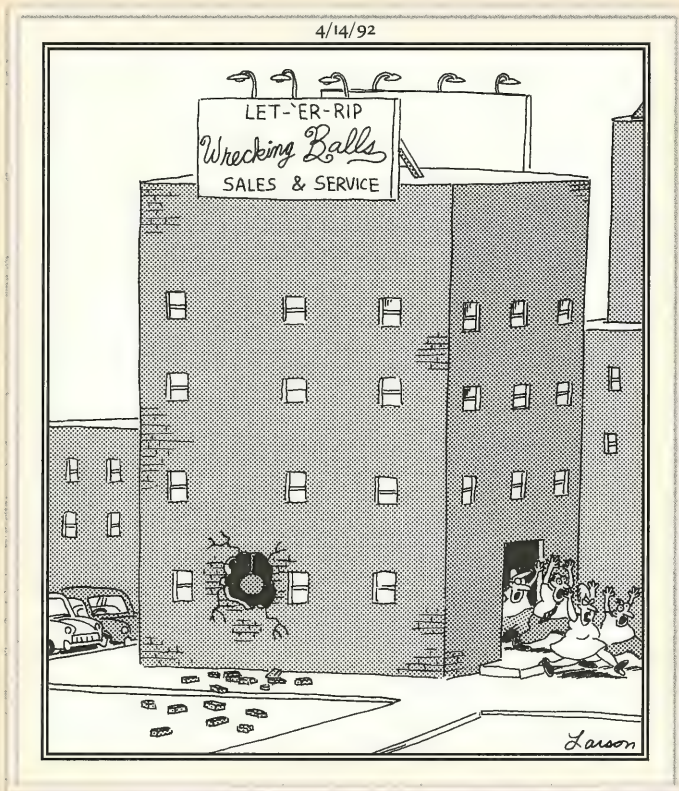


As Nyles left the safari club, his stomach suddenly knotted up. Foolishly, he had ignored the warnings not to park his Land Rover in this part of Tanzania.

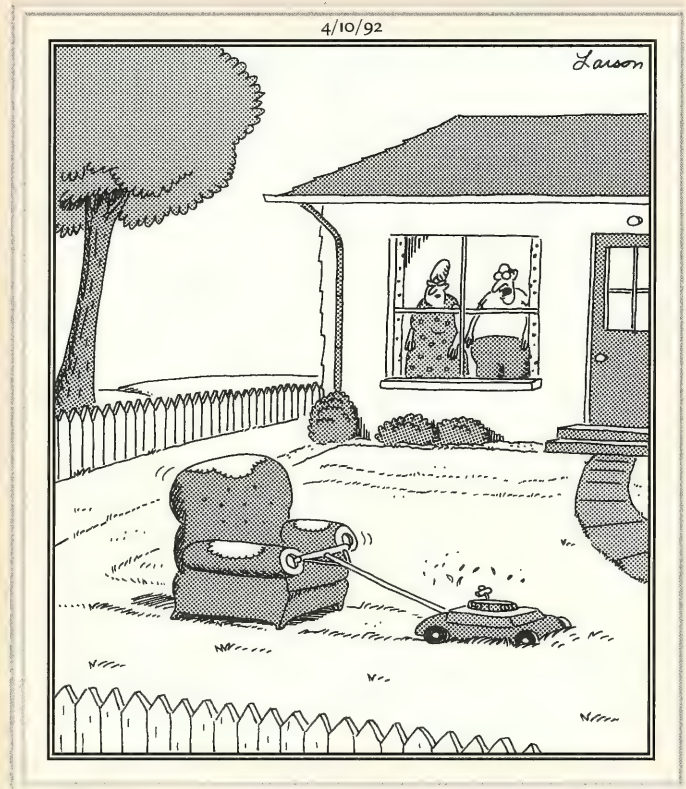


Dance of the beekeepers





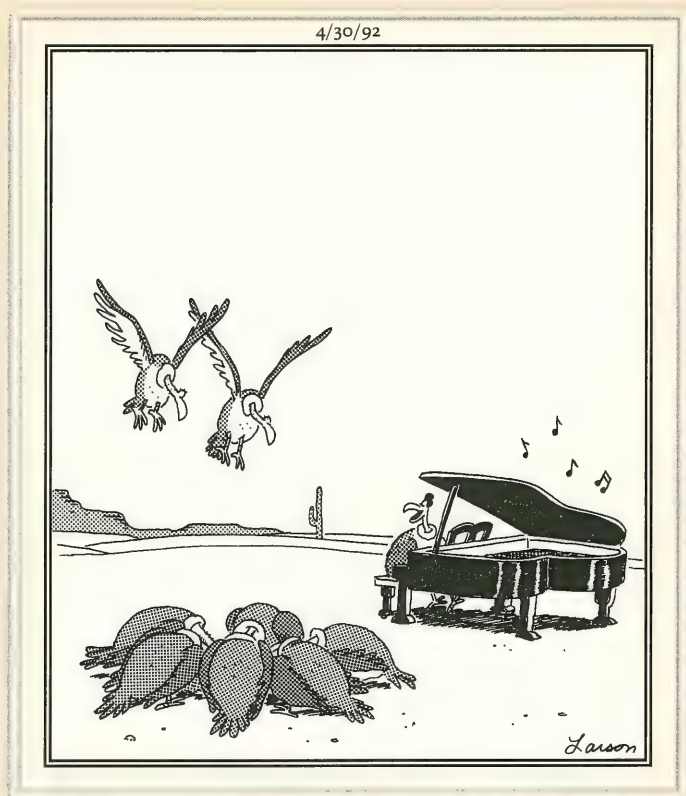
Up until that moment, Raymond had been a rather shy employee with a nervous twitch.
Up until that moment.



"Holy cow! What's gotten into our La-Z-Boy?"



Concepts of hell



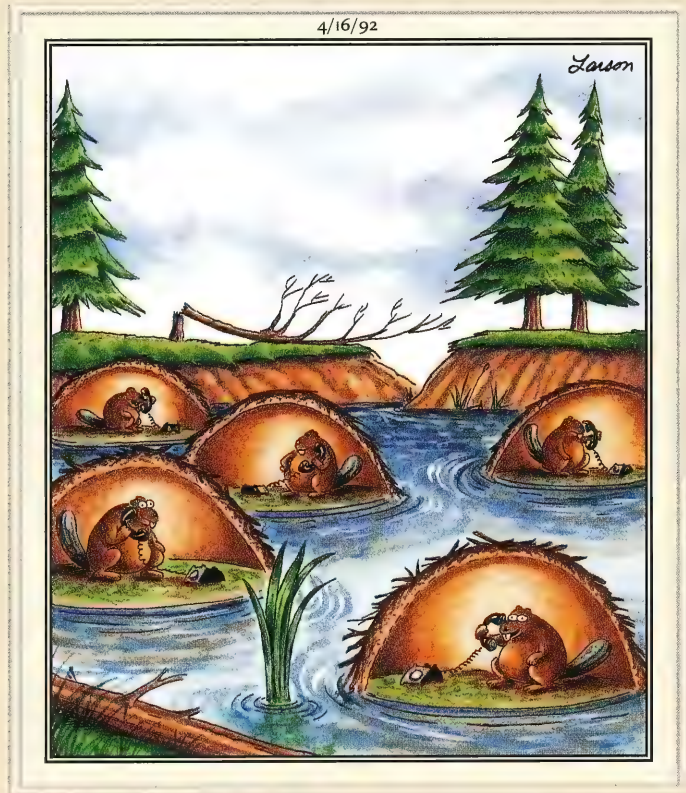
"Hey! It's Frank and Cindy! ... Haven't seen you folks for a while!"



Alert, but far from panicked, the herbivores studied the sudden arrival of two cheetah speedwalkers.



"Oh, my word, Helen! You play, *too*? ... And here I always thought you were just a songbird."



In the rodent family, the beaver is the king of the busy signal.



"For crying out loud! Look at this place! ... Well, this is one little satanic ritual that's coming to an end!"

4/20/92



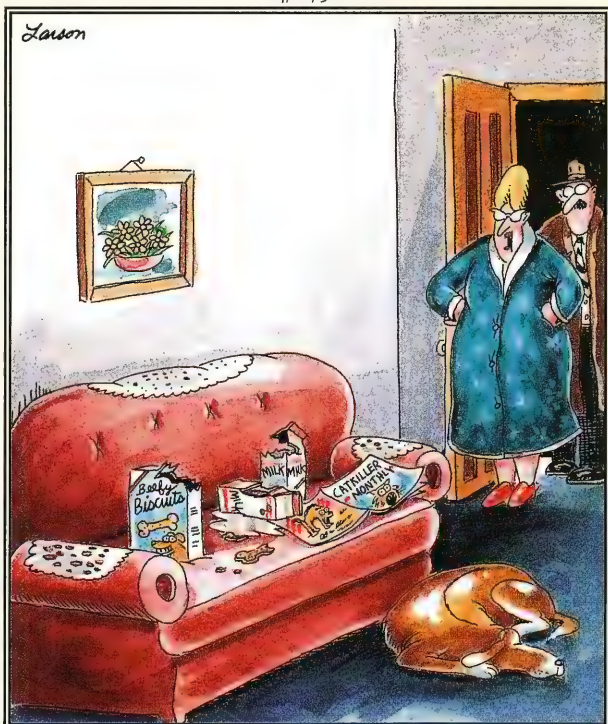
Scene from *Cape Buffalo Fear*

4/21/92



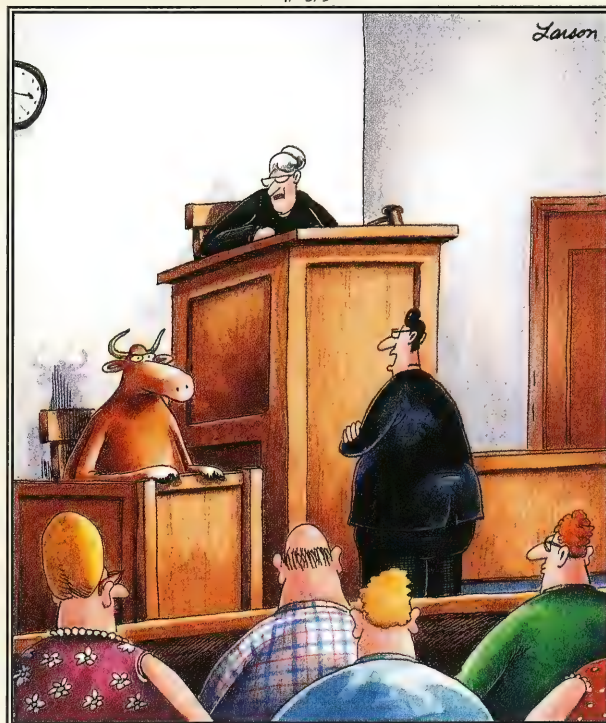
High drama at the Arthropod Trade Center

4/22/92

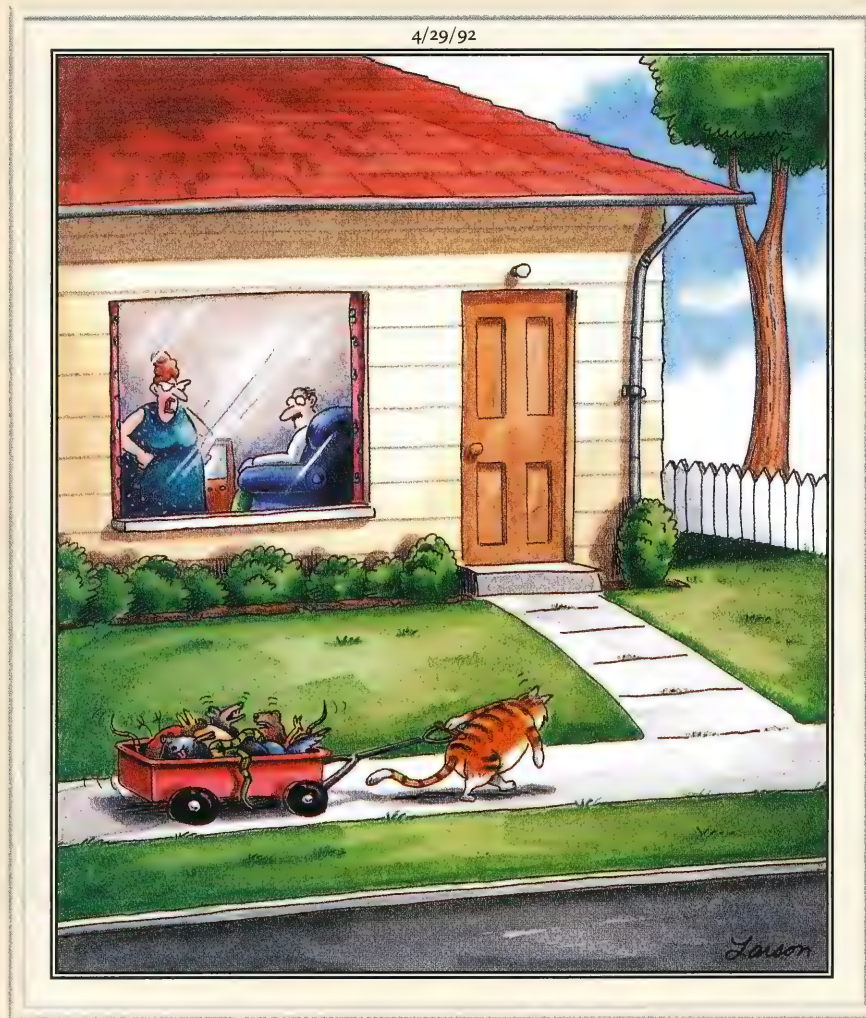


"Dang! That dog's been up on the sofa again, Hank—I just know it!"

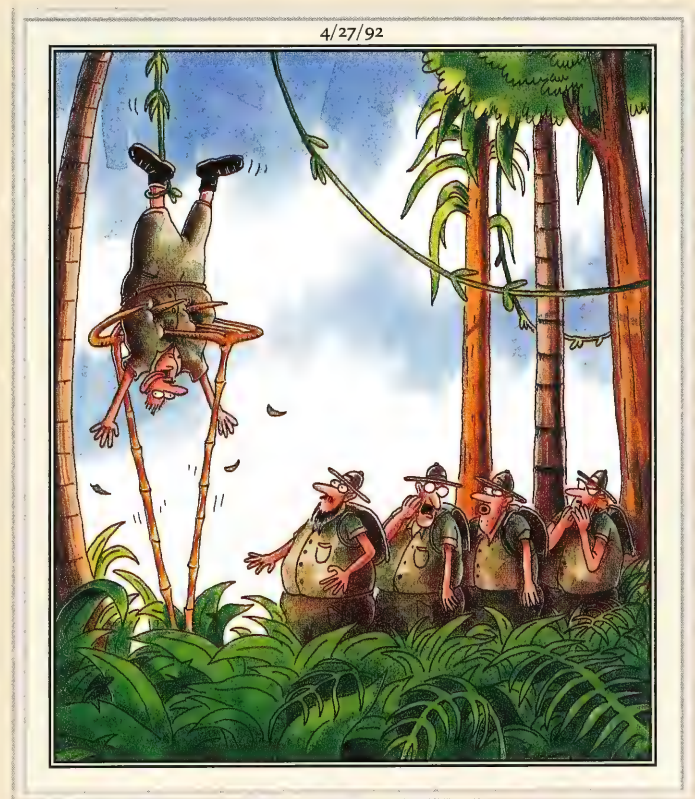
4/23/92



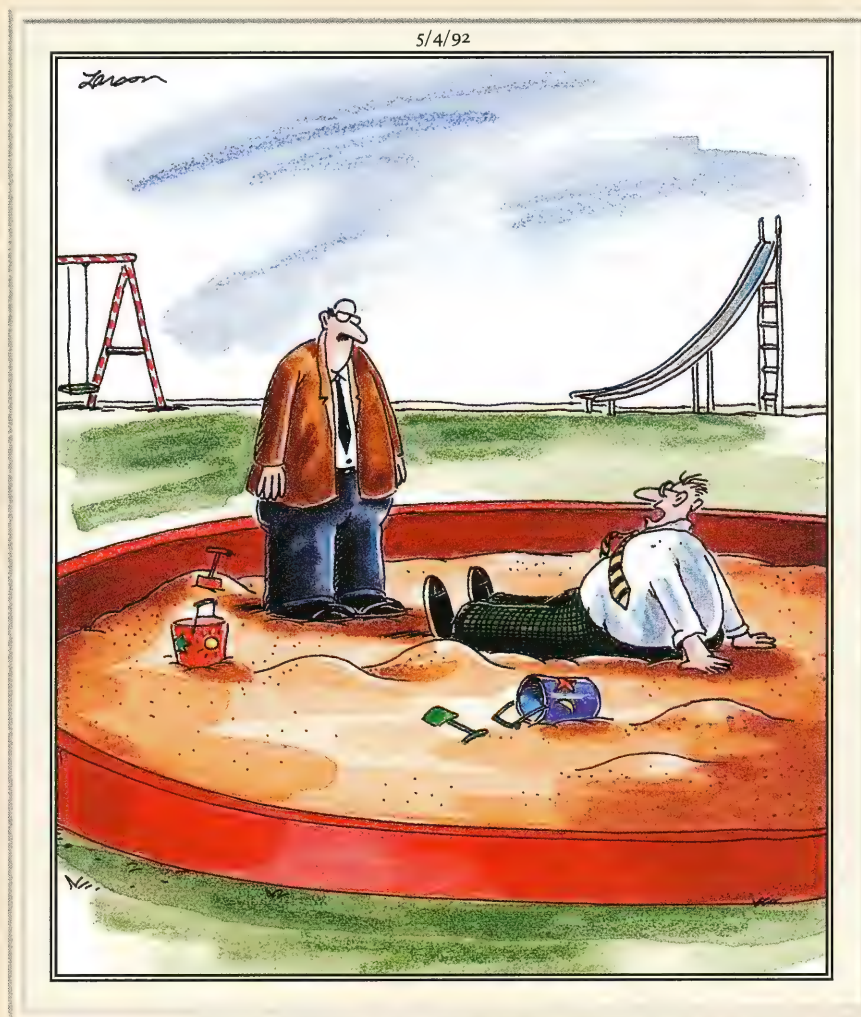
"Look. We know *how* you did it—*how* is no longer the question. What we now want to know is *why*. ... Why now, brown cow?"



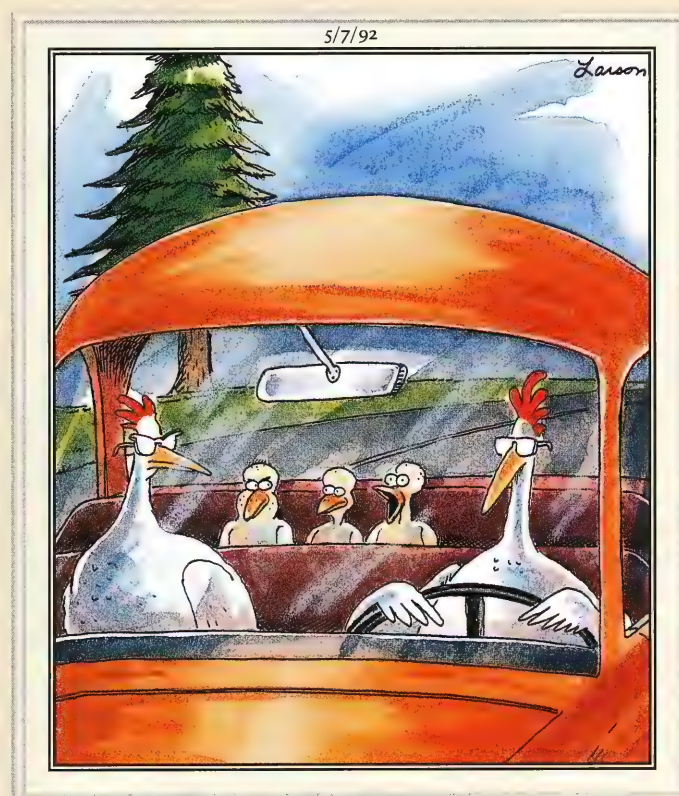
"Keep the door shut, Ernie! I just *know* that dang cat is going to try dragging that thing into the house."



"That's why I never walk in front."

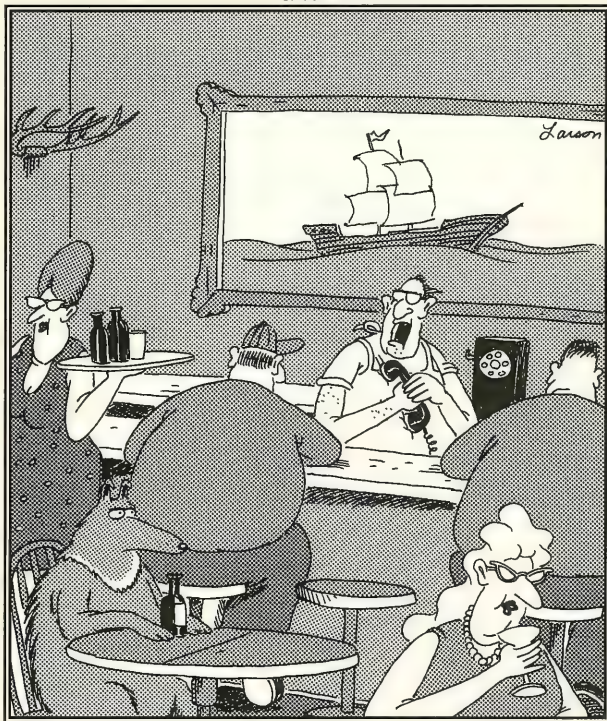


"Okay, McFadden. ... So *that's* the way you wanna play."



"Mom! We were all singing 'She'll Be Comin' 'Round the Mountain,' but Randy won't stop with the 'whack, whack' part!"

5/1/92



"LASSIE! ... COME HOME! ...
LASSIE COME HOME!"

5/5/92

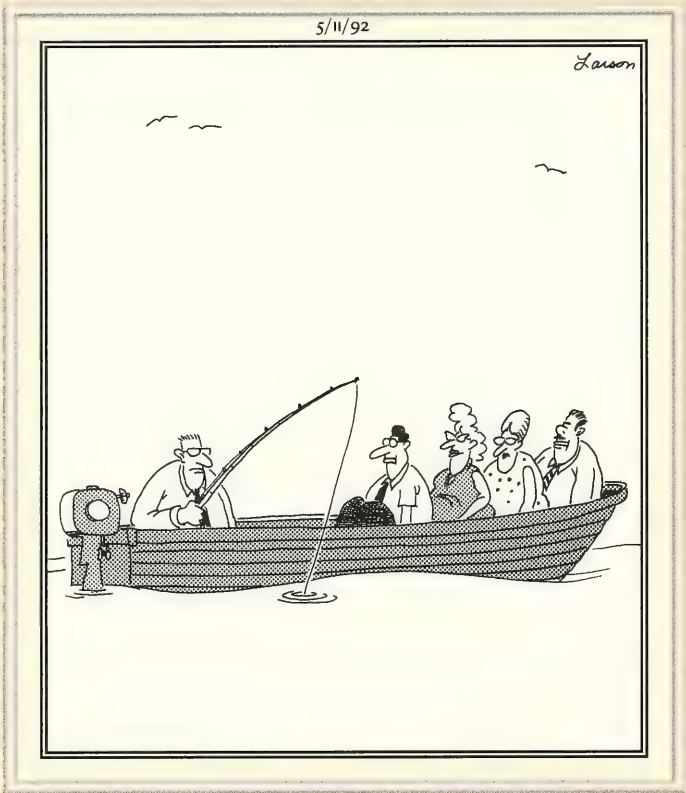


"So please welcome our keynote speaker,
Professor Melvin Fenwick—the man who, back
in 1952, first coined the now common phrase:
'Fools! I'll destroy them all!'"

5/8/92



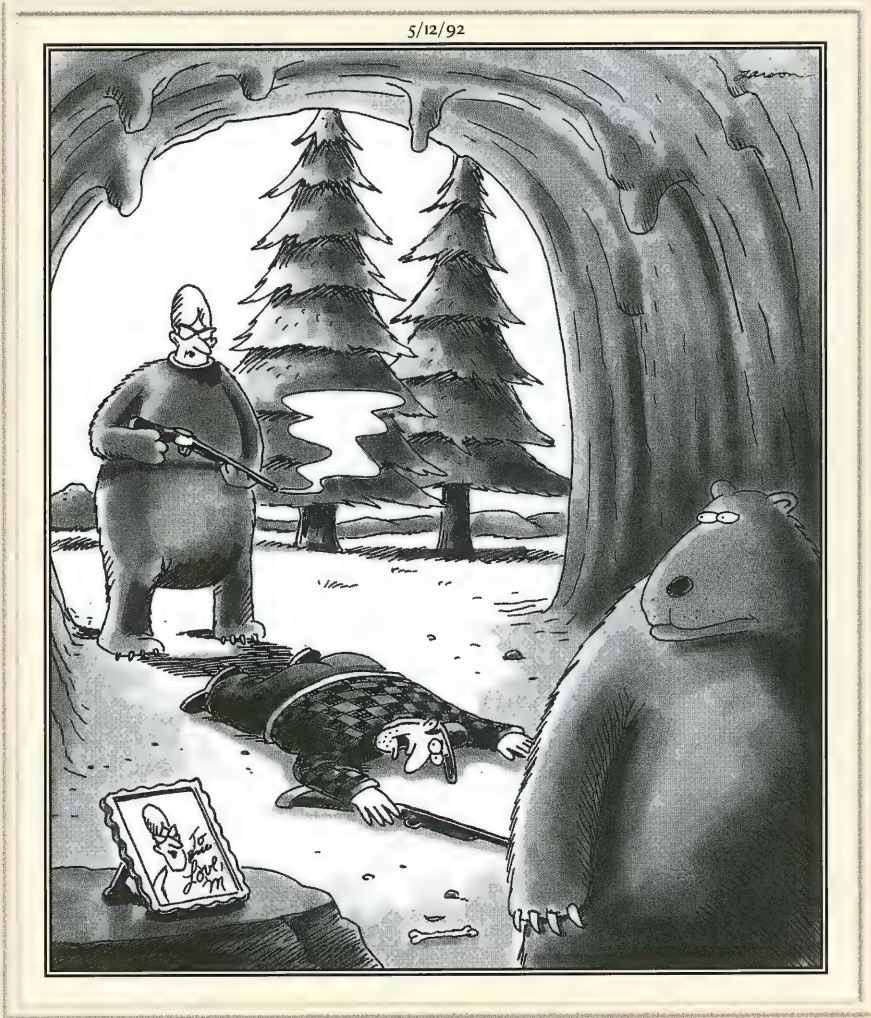
Fly dates



J. W. Miller with his staff and rod



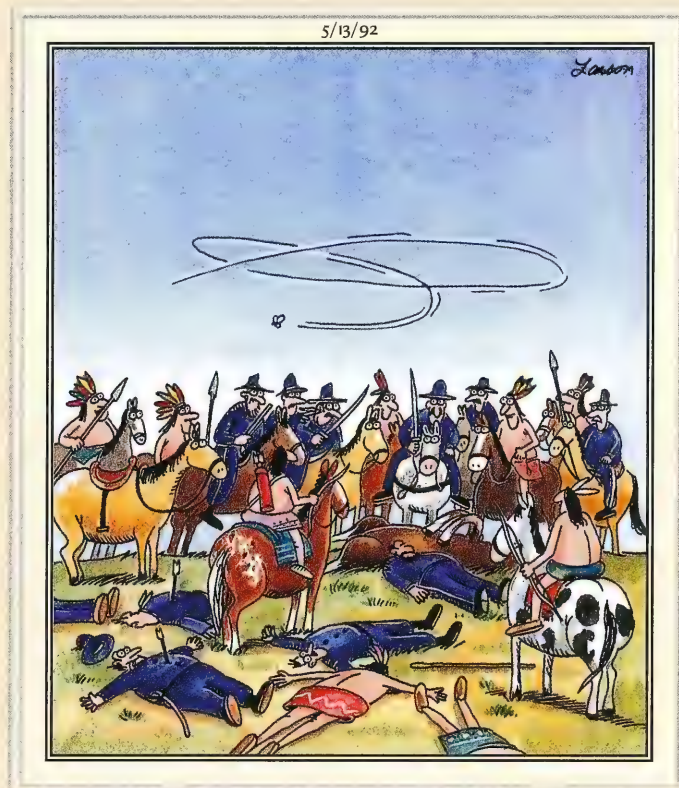
The life and times of baby Jessica



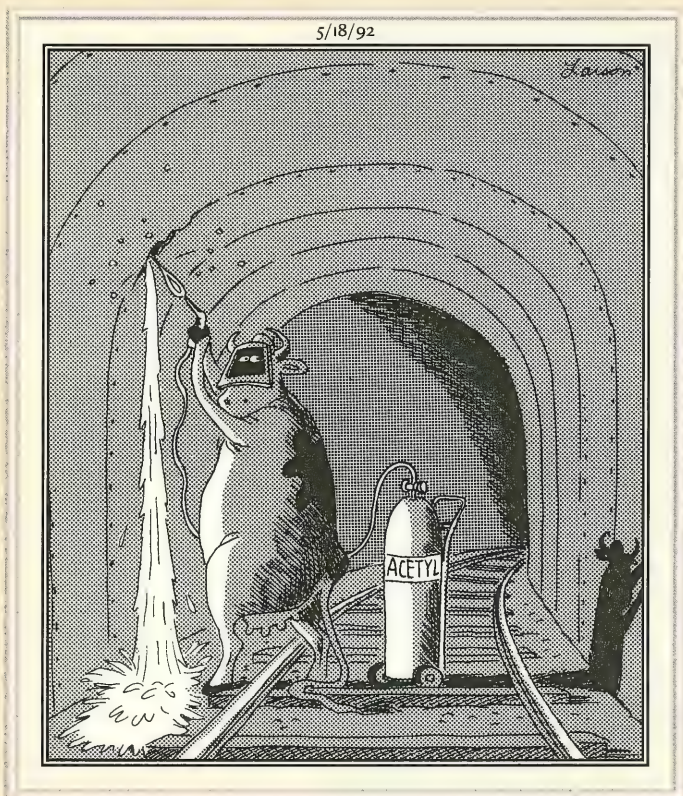
“Margaret! You? ... I ... should ... have ... knowwwwwnnnnnn ... ”



Junior high gorillas



The action suddenly stopped while both sides waited patiently for the hornet to calm down.



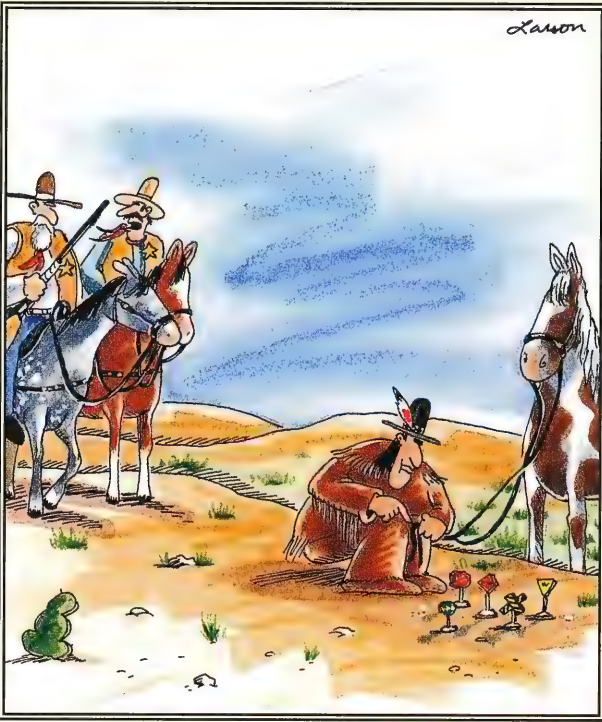
In a tunnel under the Chicago River, a descendant of Mrs. O'Leary's cow follows her calling.



Good and evil shoes

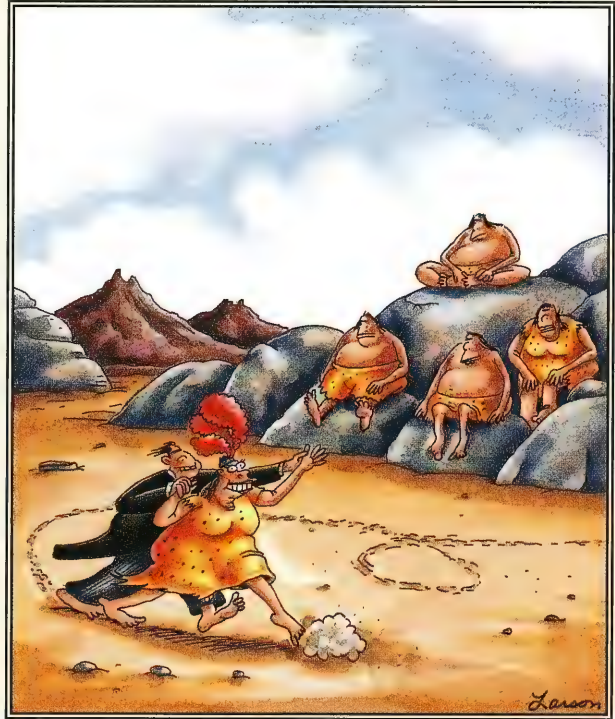
5/21/92

Larson



"Now we'll find the varmint for sure. ...
Red Cloud can read even the smallest trail signs."

5/19/92



The first Dirt Capades

5/22/92

Larson



Beeswax lunches

5/29/92

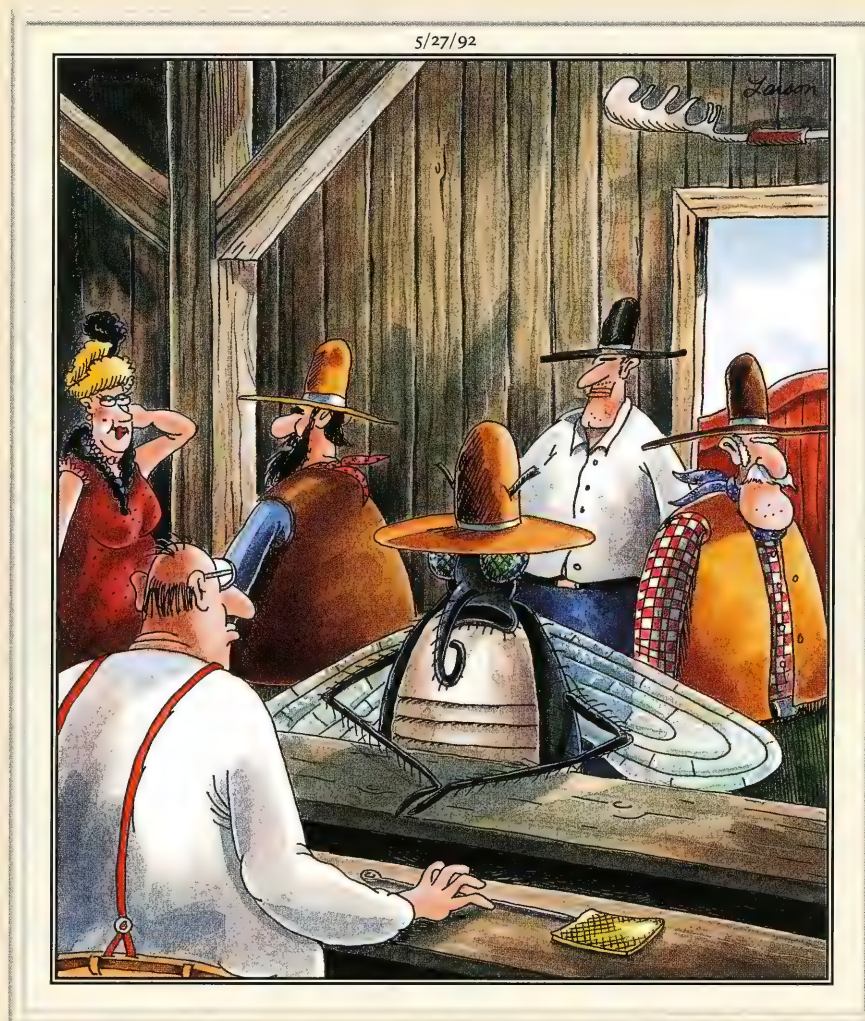


"Curse you, Flannegan! Curse you to hell! ...
There, I've said it."

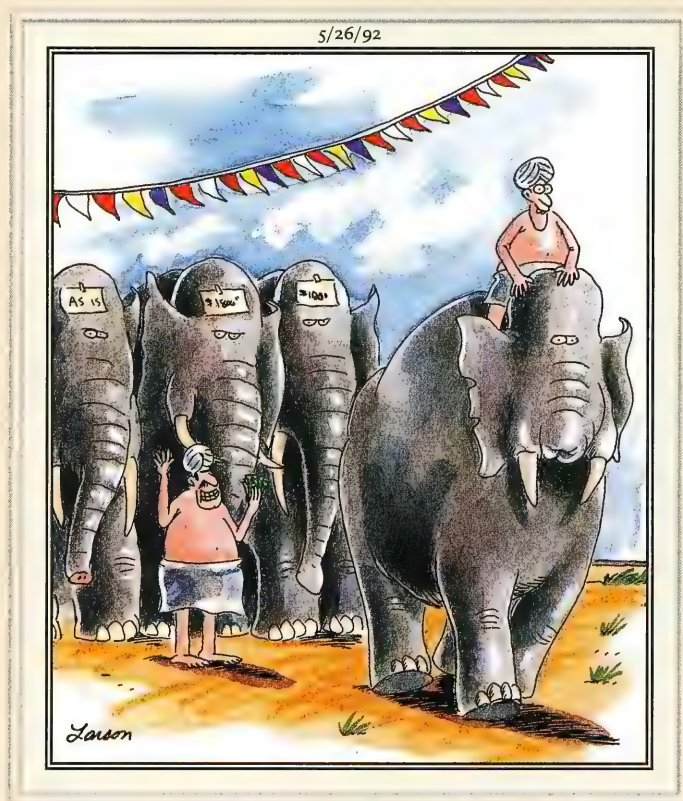
5/25/92



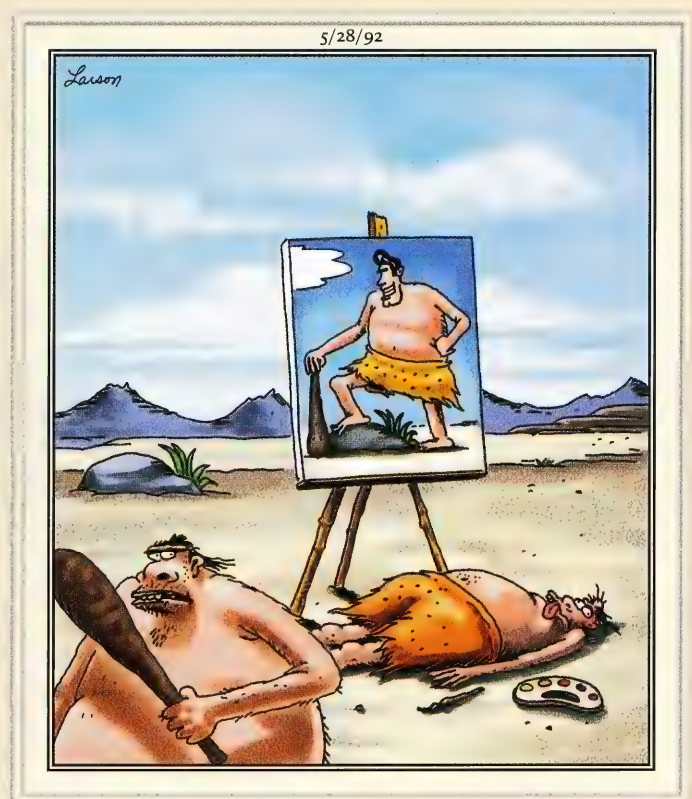
"Give me a hand here, boys! It's young Will Hawkins! ...
Dang fool tried to ride into the sunset!"



"I wouldn't do that, bartender. ... Unless, of course, you think you're fast enough."

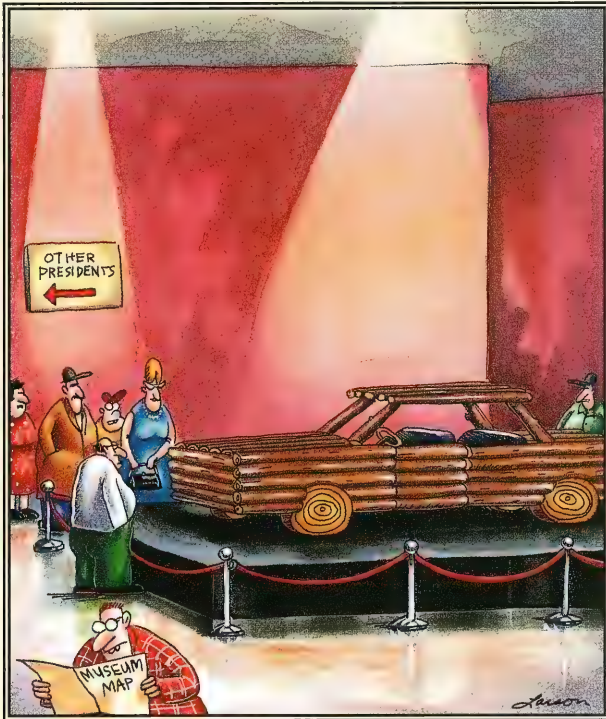


It wasn't until he got home that Sahib realized the thing had no front end.



Modern art critic

6/1/92



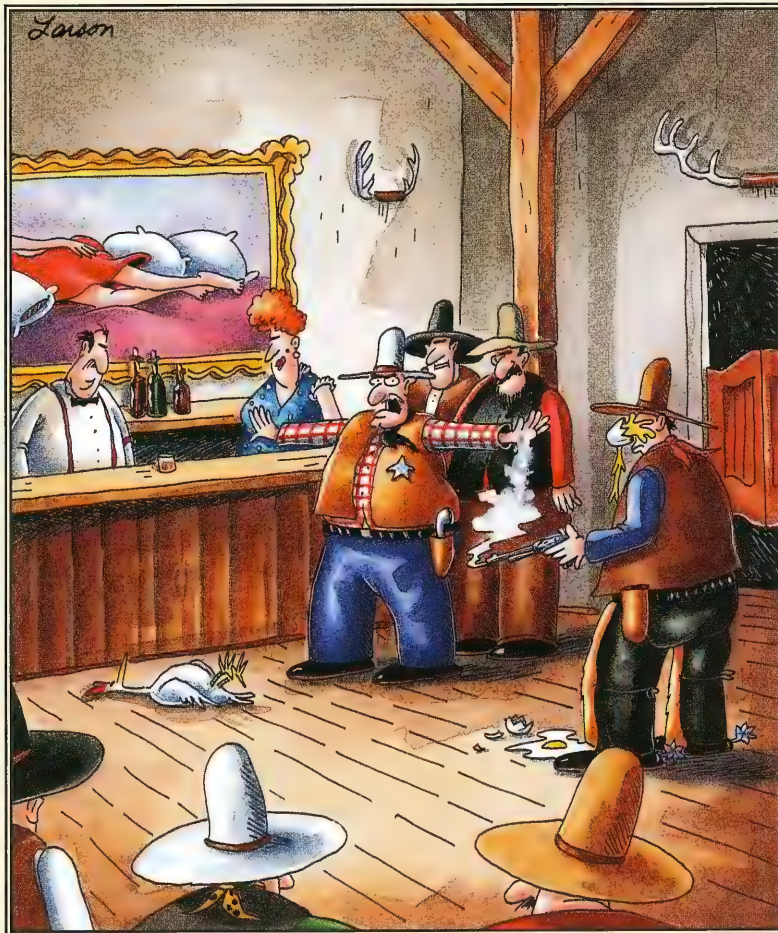
Abraham Lincoln's first car

6/4/92

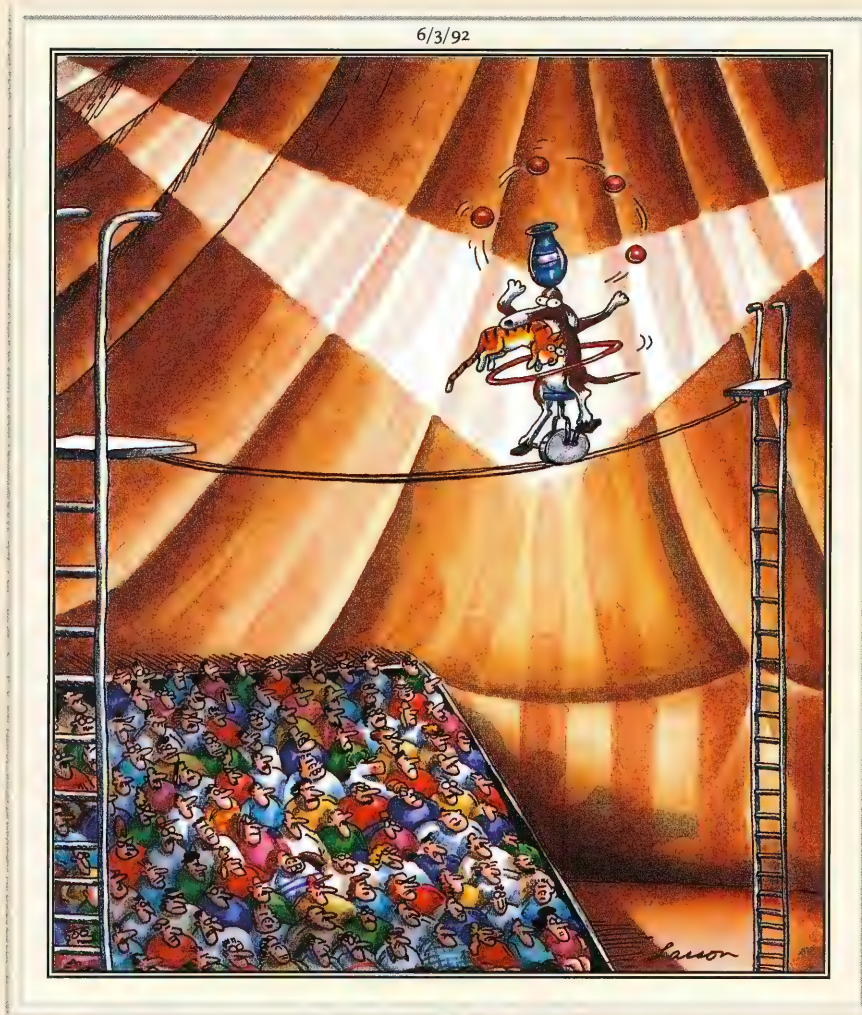


"Well, there they go again. The Stenbergs are always acting like life is one big musical."

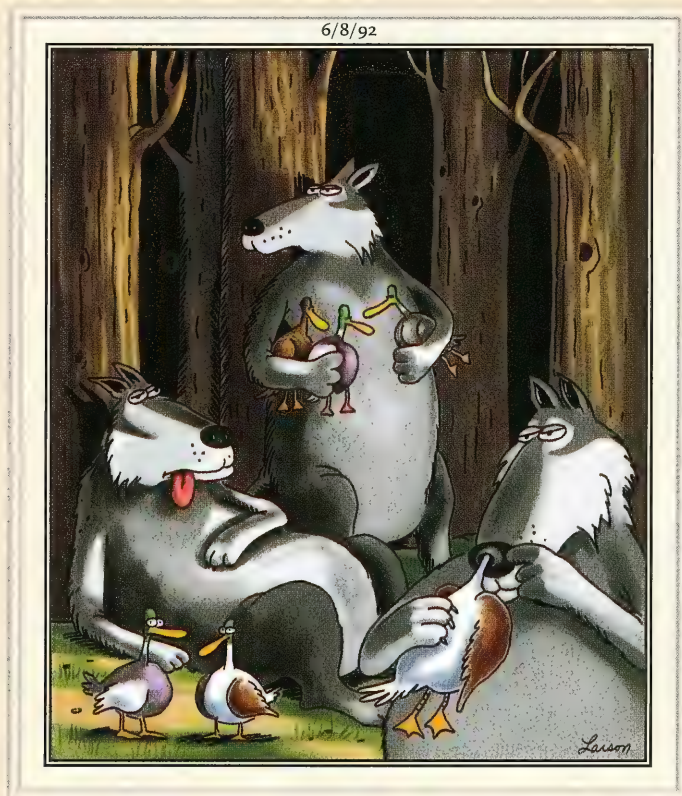
6/2/92



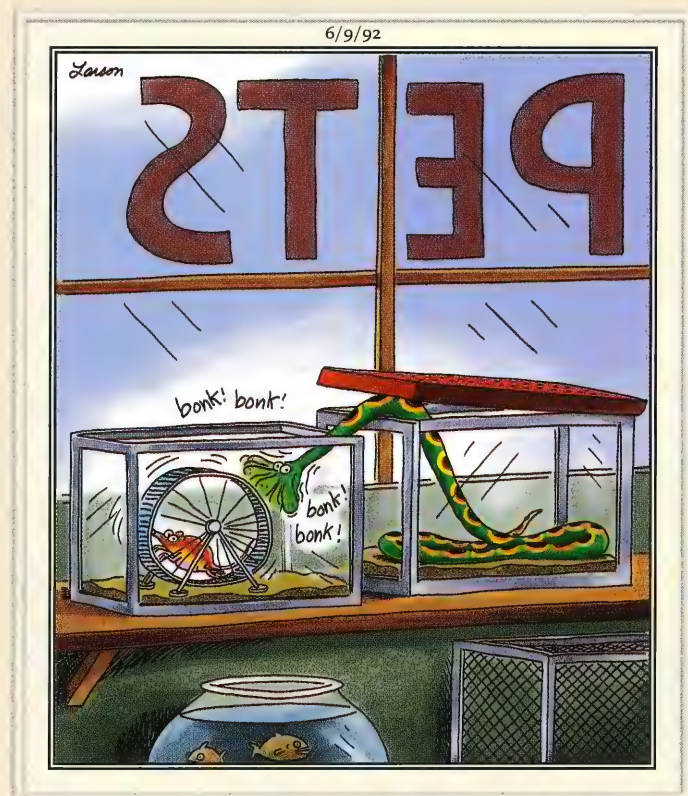
"Okay, everyone just stand back! ... Anyone see what happened here?"



High above the hushed crowd, Rex tried to remain focused. Still, he couldn't shake one nagging thought: He was an old dog and this was a new trick.

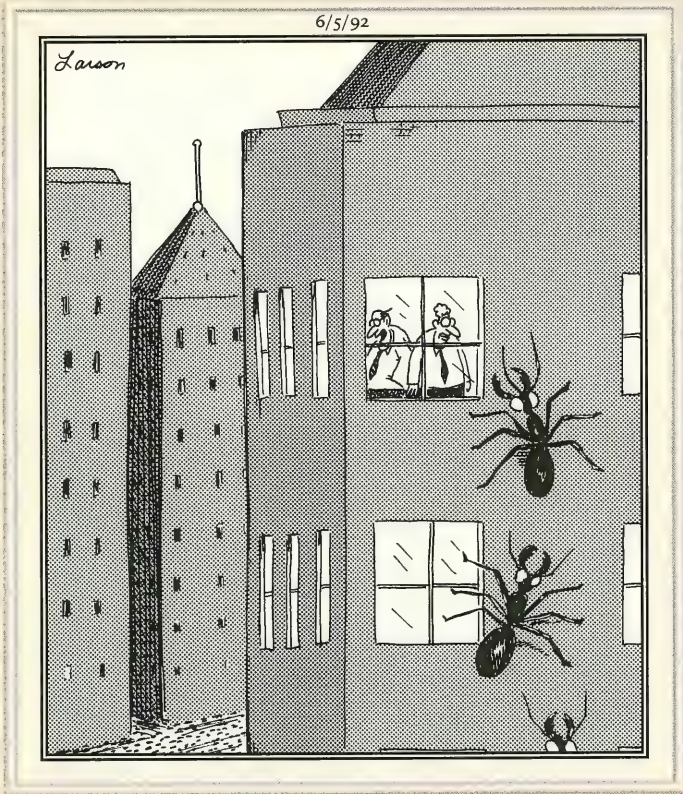


Some wolves, their habitat destroyed and overwhelmed by human pressures, turn to snorting quack.





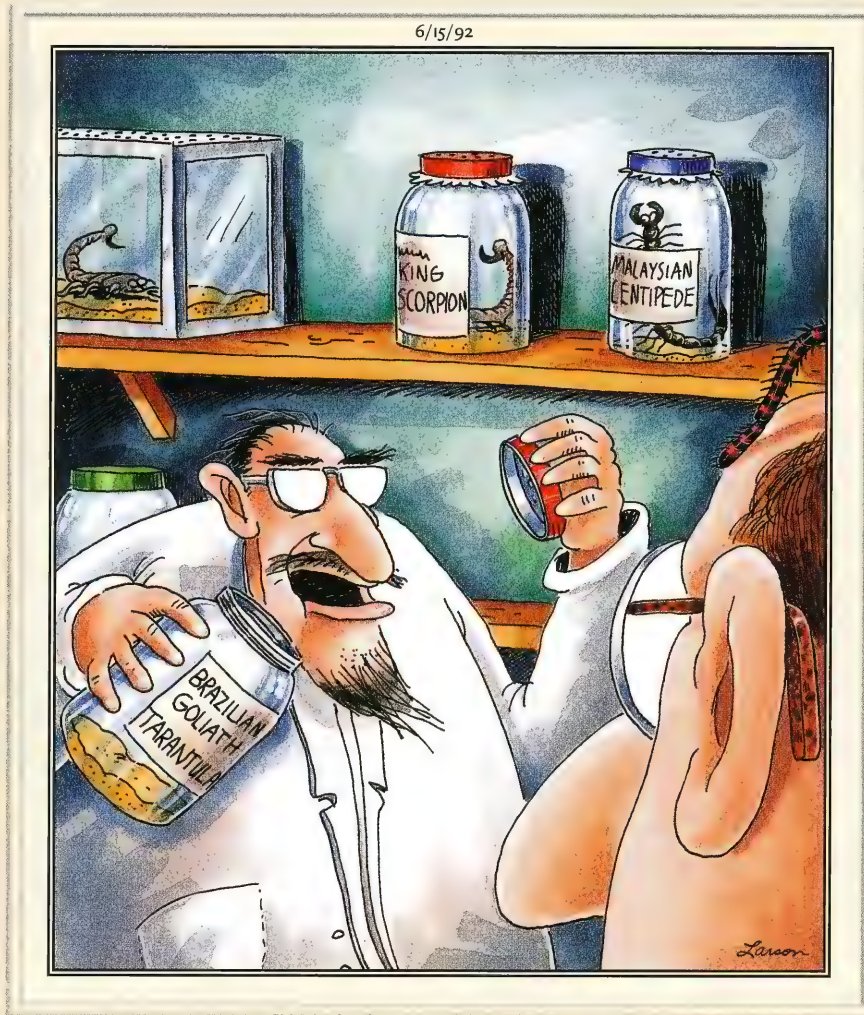
“Look here, McGinnis—hundreds of bright copper kettles, warm woolen mittens, brown paper packages tied up with string. ... Someone was after a few of this guy’s favorite things.”



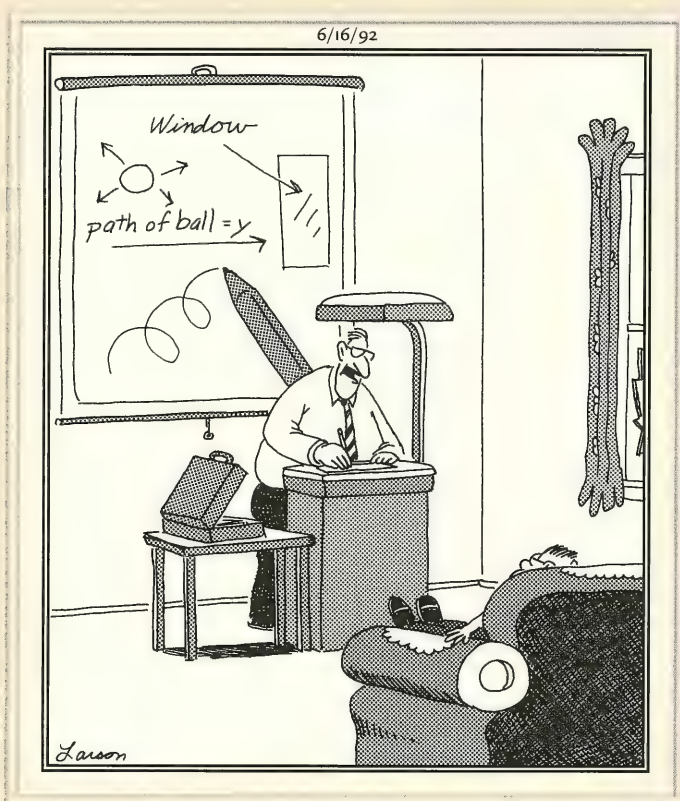
“Look at the hordes down there, Phil. ... Have I ever told you what they look like? Huh? ... Have I?”



Lips of the animal kingdom



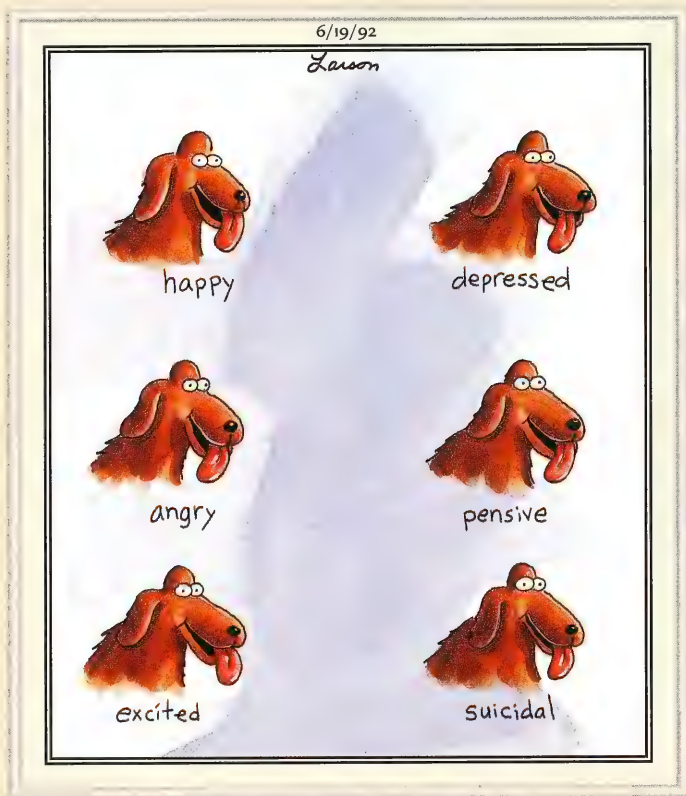
"There you are, my darling ... Rawlings! Don't move!"



Eventually, Billy came to dread his father's lectures over all other forms of punishment.



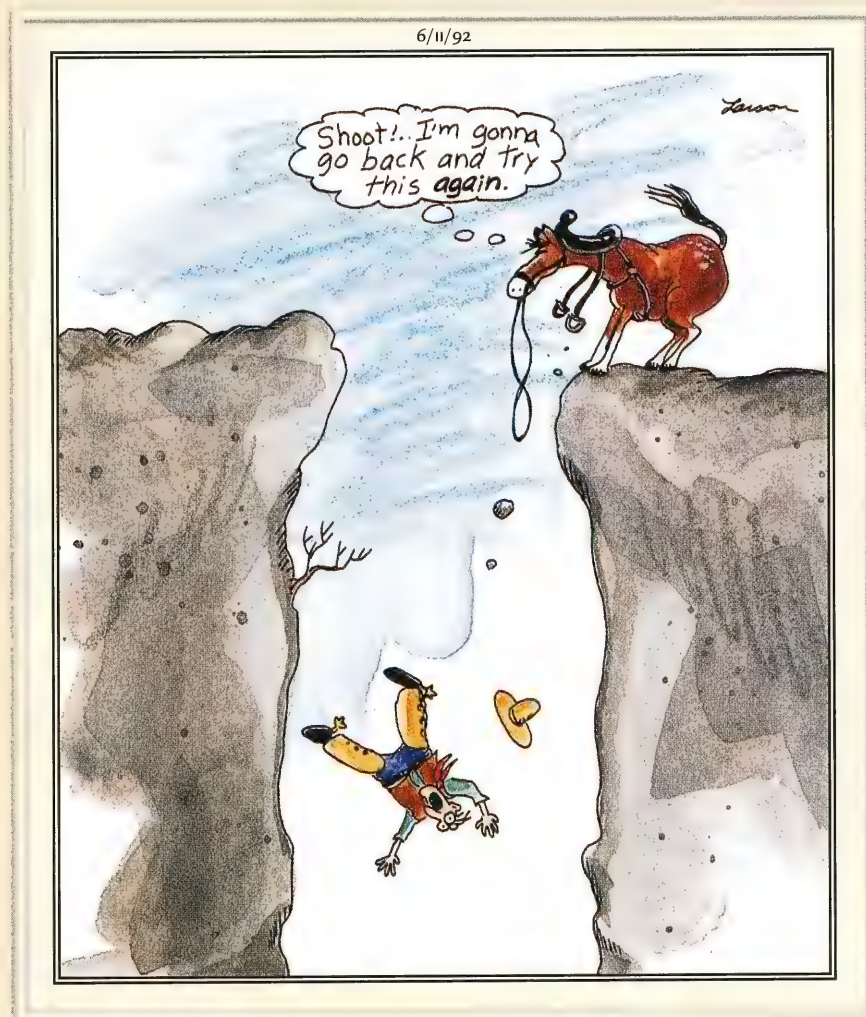
"Well, first the bad news—you're definitely hooked."

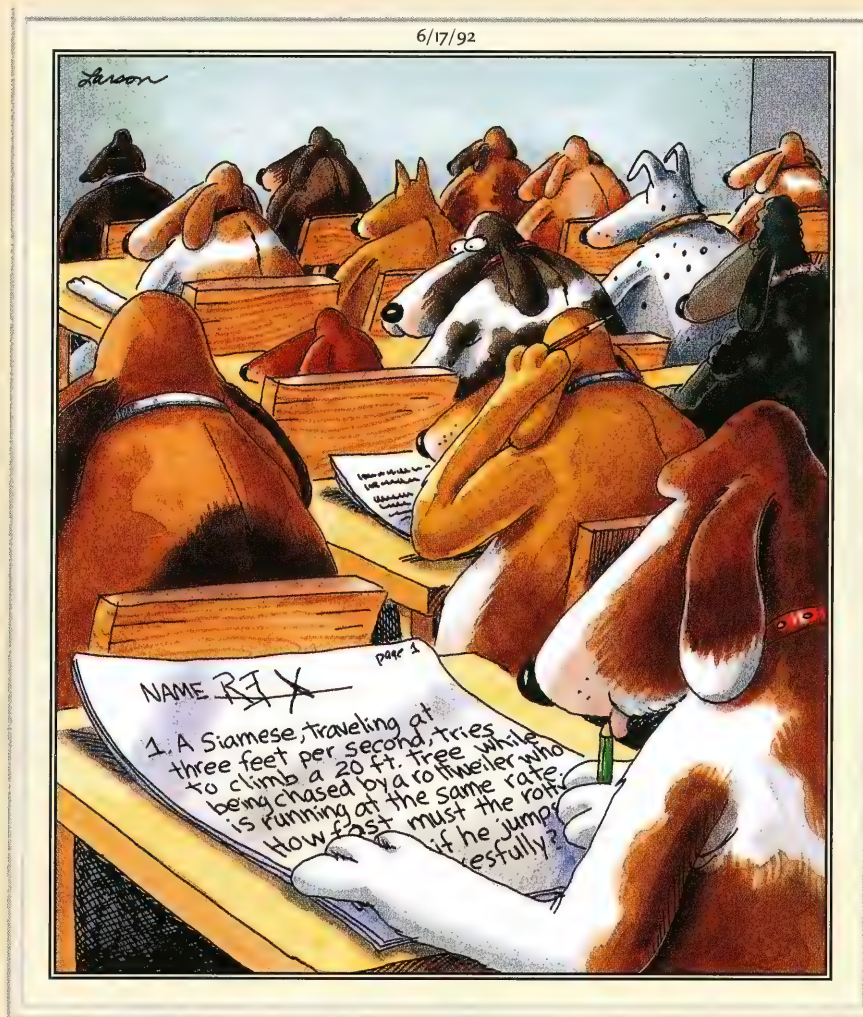


How to recognize the moods of an Irish setter

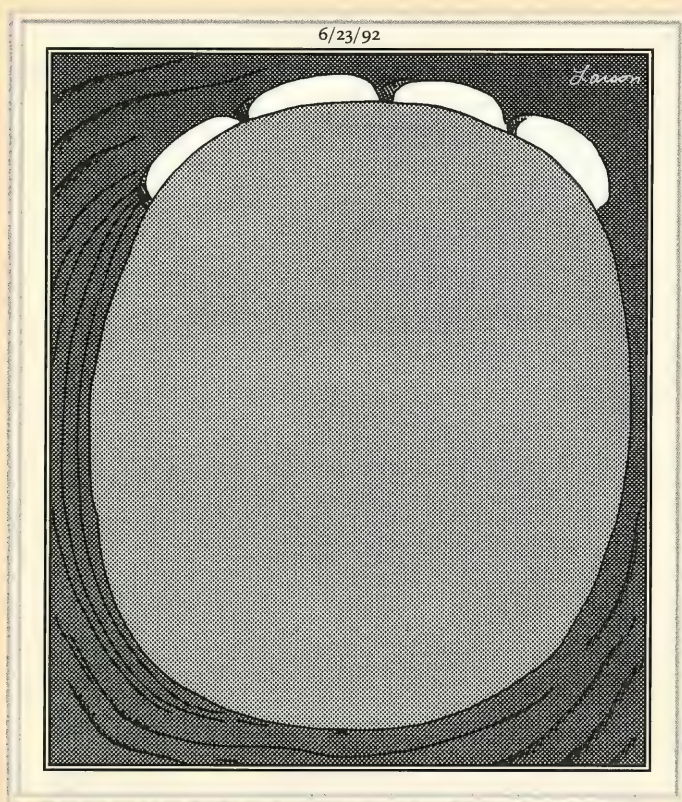


"Man, the Kellermans have a lot of nerve! ...
If it wasn't for our screens, they'd probably
walk right in!"





Before their admission to any canine university, dogs must first do well on the CATs.



The last thing you see of an annoyed elephant



As suddenly as it started, Joe's gagging is alleviated when a small ninja sword is dislodged from his throat.

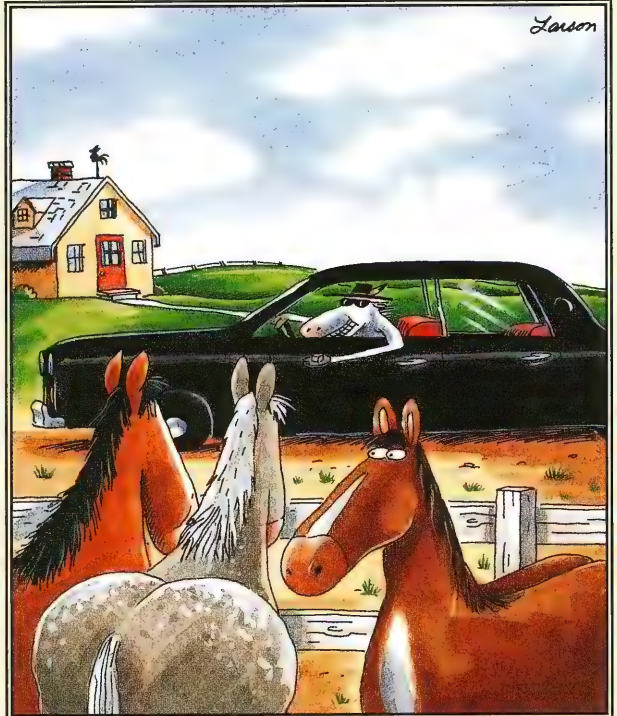
6/25/92



Zorg dupes the entire tribe in an incident later known as "firegate."

6/26/92

Larson



Every afternoon a sugar cube dealer would slowly cruise the corral looking for "customers."

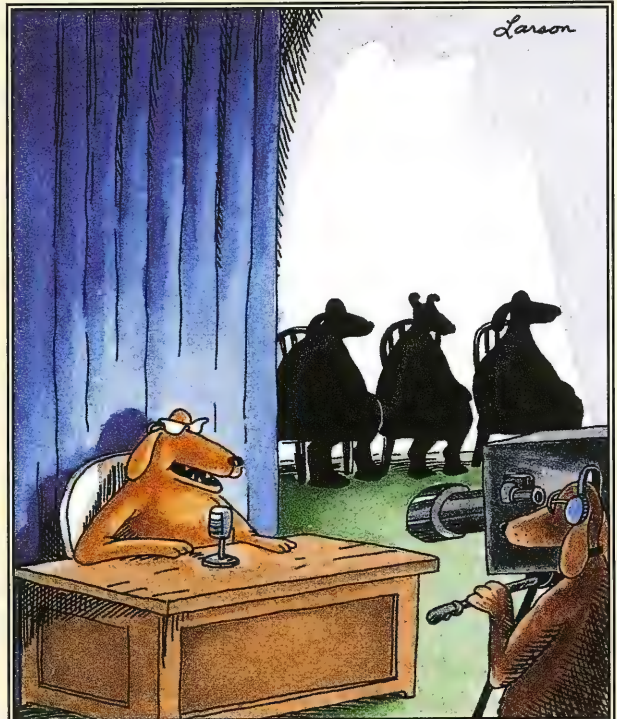
6/29/92

Larson

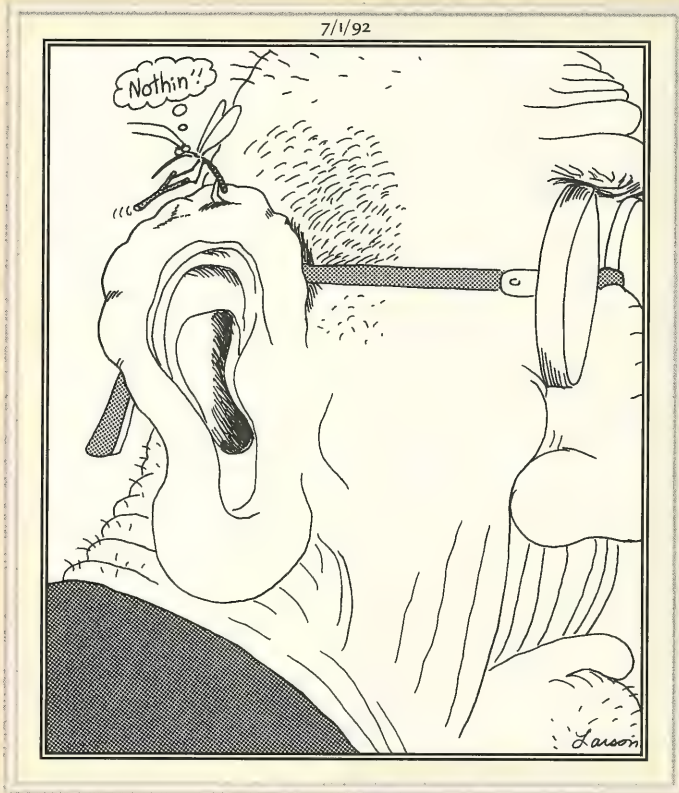


6/30/92

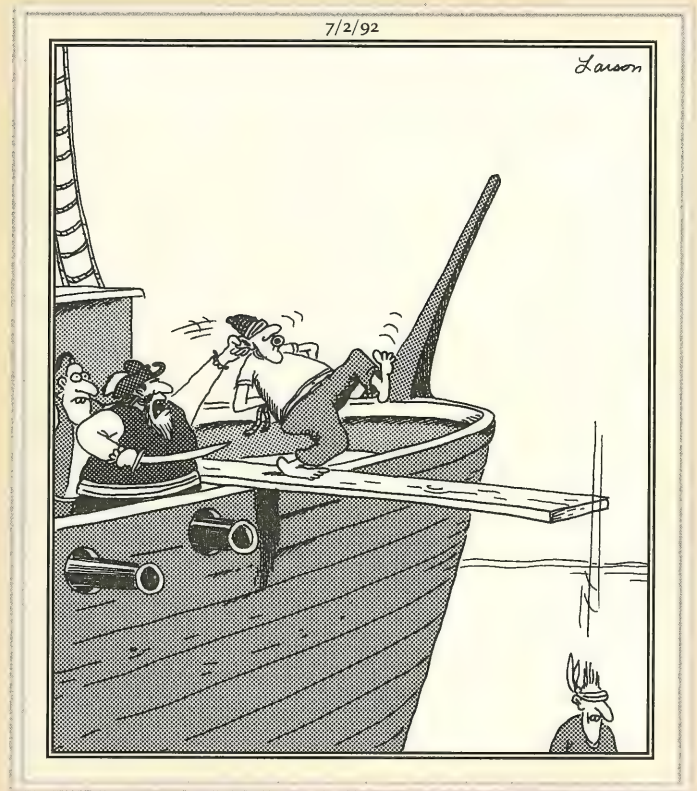
Larson



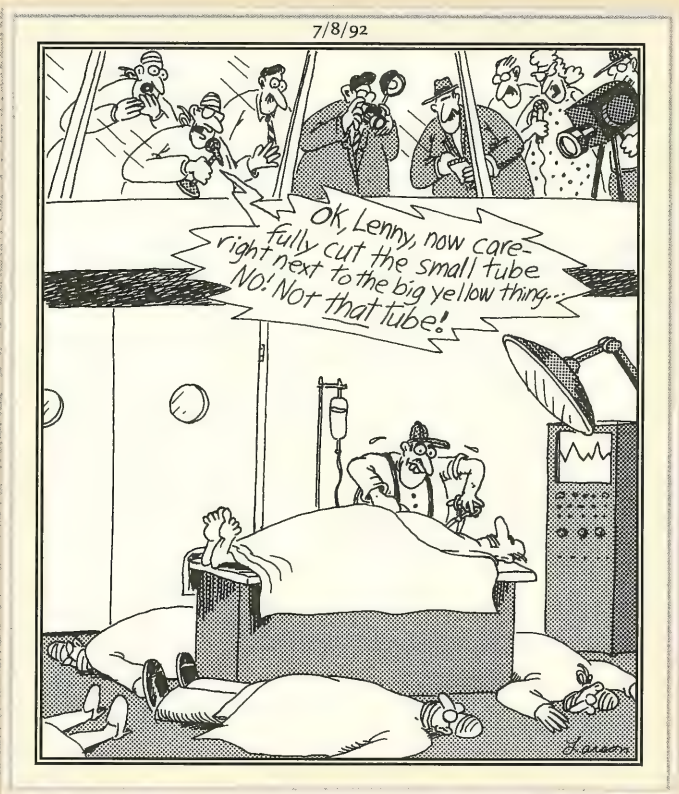
"Dogs that drink from the toilet bowl—right after this message."



Insect witching rods



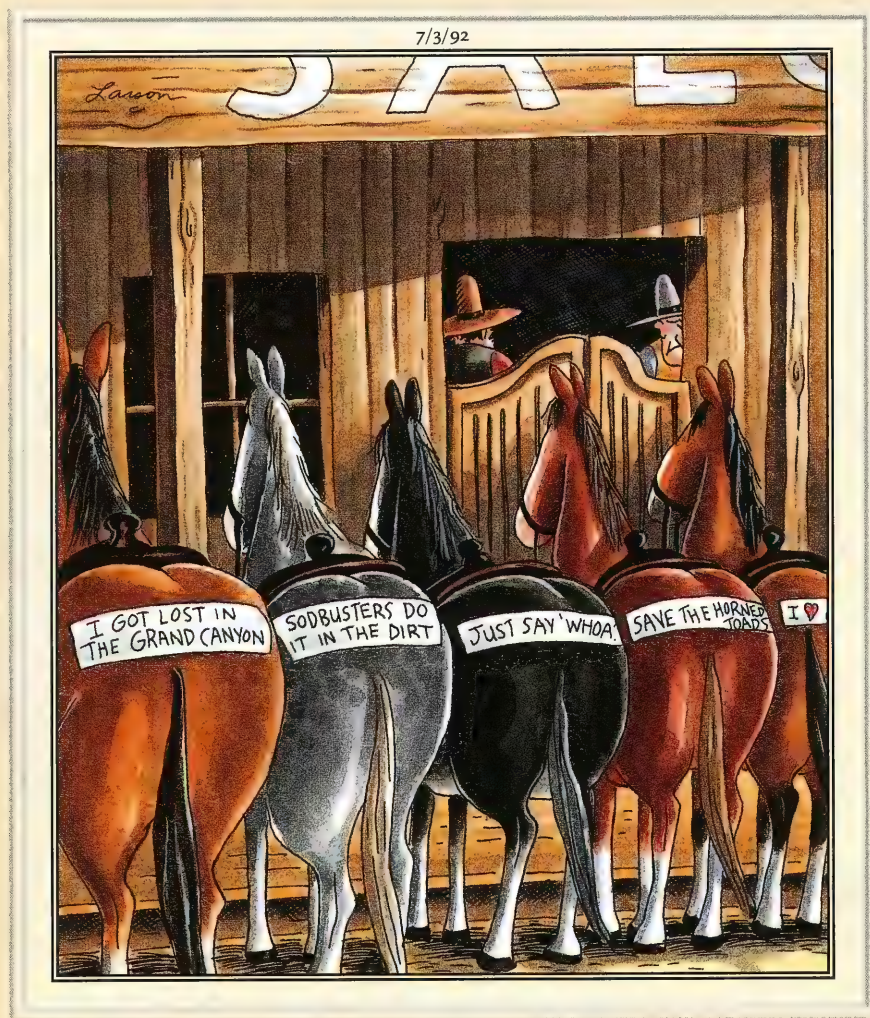
"Whoa whoa whoa, young man! You walk the plank like everyone else!"



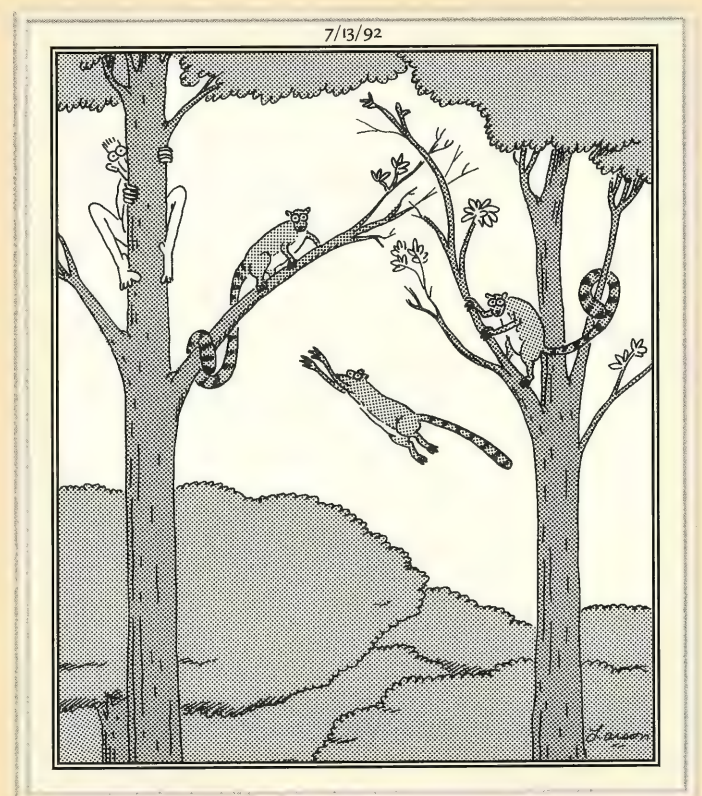
With the surgical team passed out, and with help from the observation deck, hospital custodian Leonard Knudson suddenly became responsible for bringing Mr. Gruenfeld "home."



A Louvre guard is suddenly unsettled by the arrival of Linda Blair.



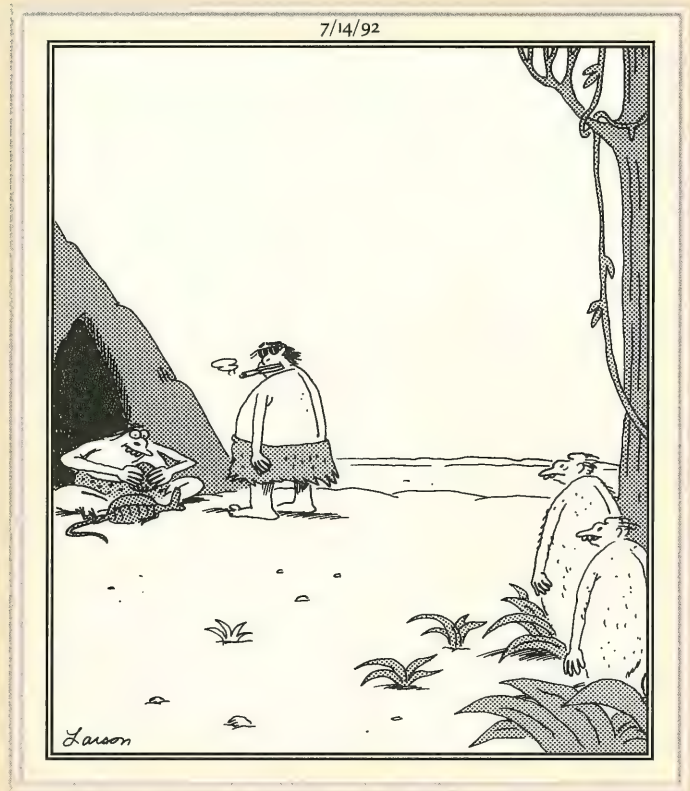
Common bumper stickers of the Old West



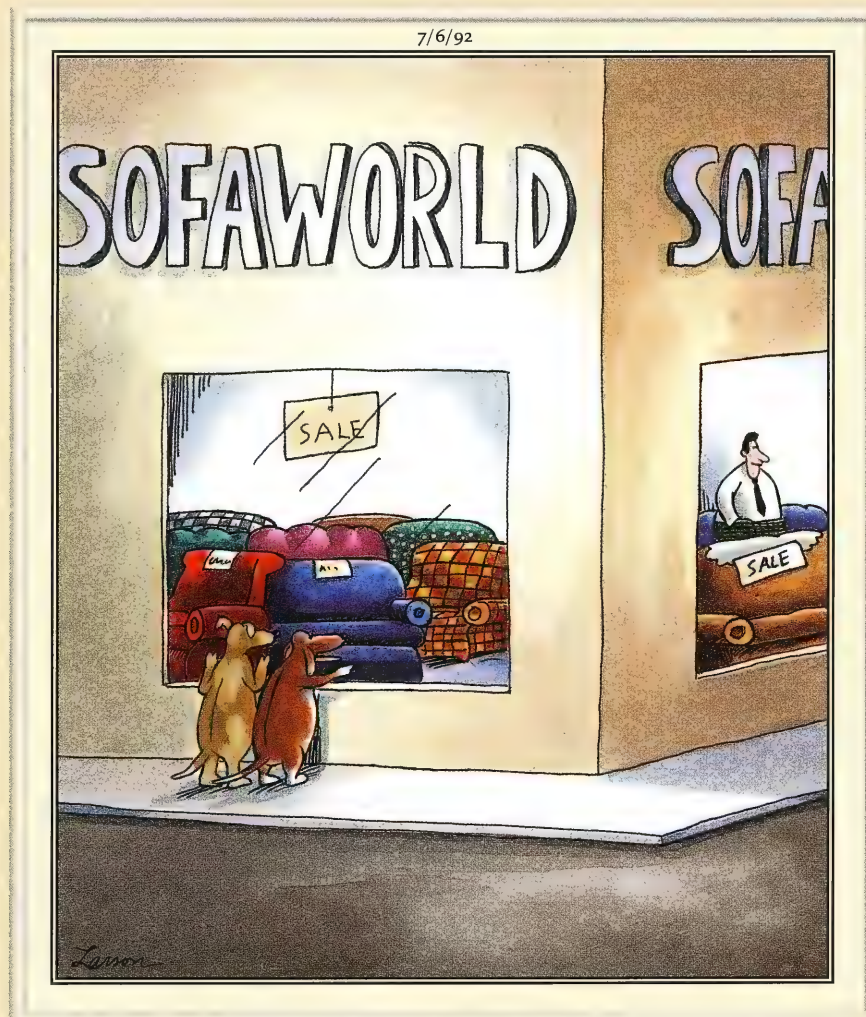
Although never achieving the fame of Tarzan, his African counterpart, Larry of the Lemurs was a common sight to natives of Madagascar.



Tarantula coffeehouses



Drawn by the pulsating sound of a rock thumping on a dead armadillo, two australopithecines stood at the forest edge. Instantly, Thag's agent knew they had a crossover hit.



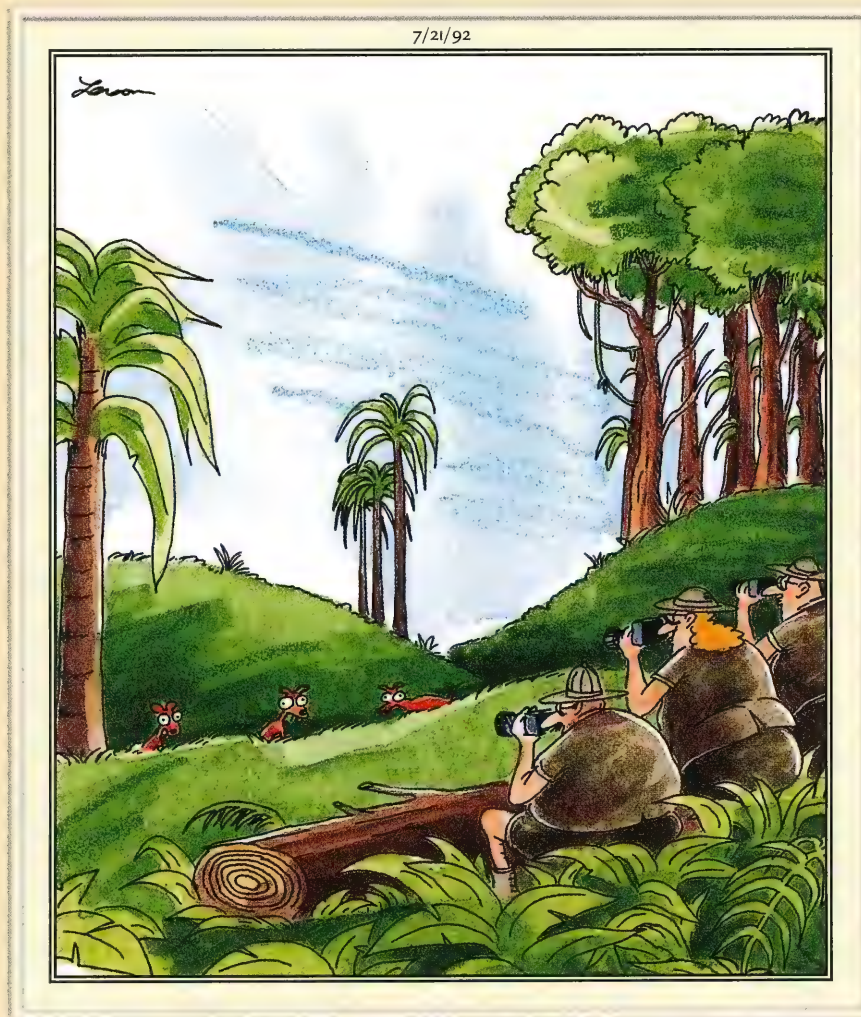
"Oo! I'd get up on that big fuzzy one!"



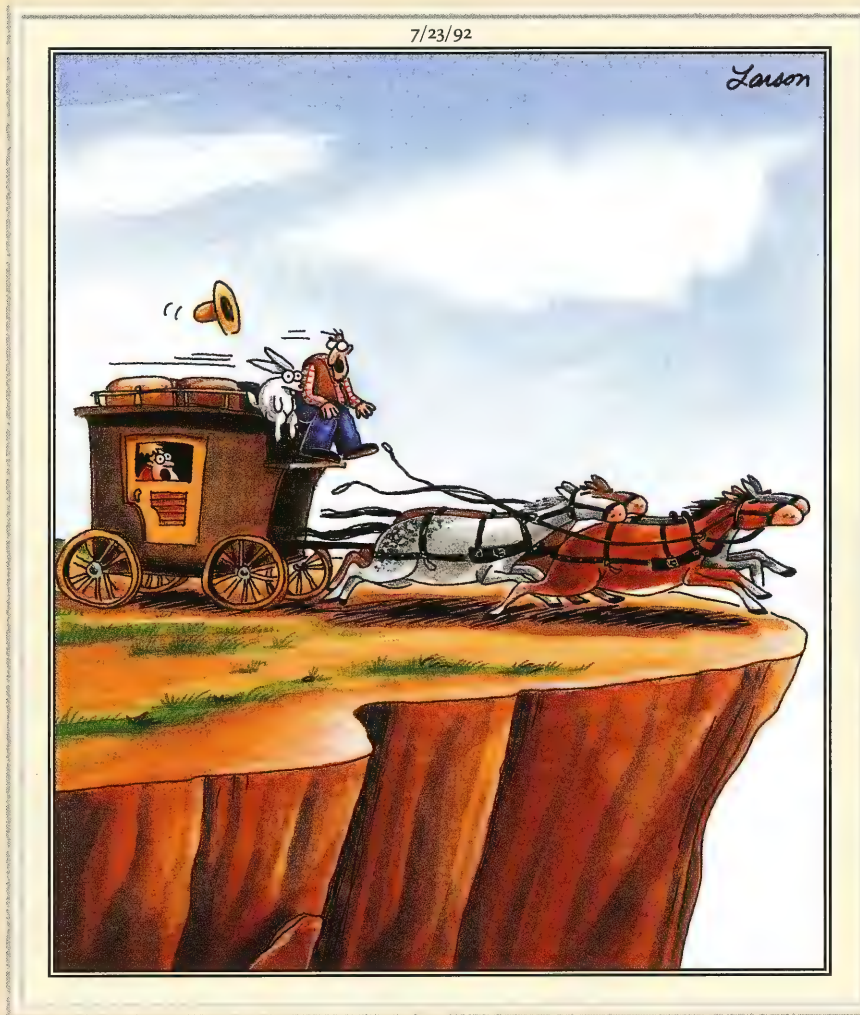
"We can't go on like this, Ramone. ... One day, George is bound to take his blinders off."



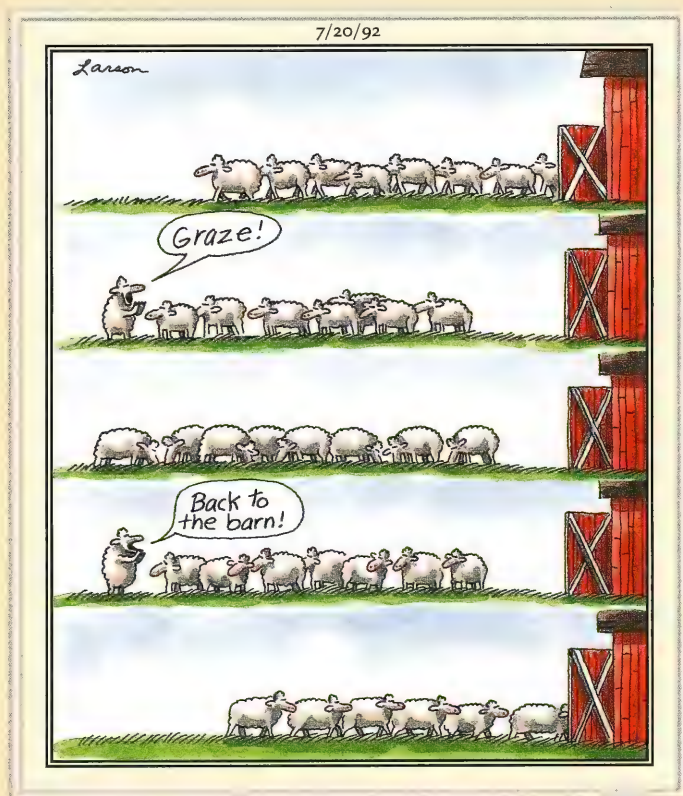
"Okay, Mr. Hook. Seems you're trying to decide between a career in pirating or massage therapy. Well, maybe we can help you narrow it down."



Every year, hundreds of tourists travel great distances to get a glimpse of the few remaining mountain Chihuahuas.



"Go ahead and jump, Sid! Hell, I know you're thinkin' it!"

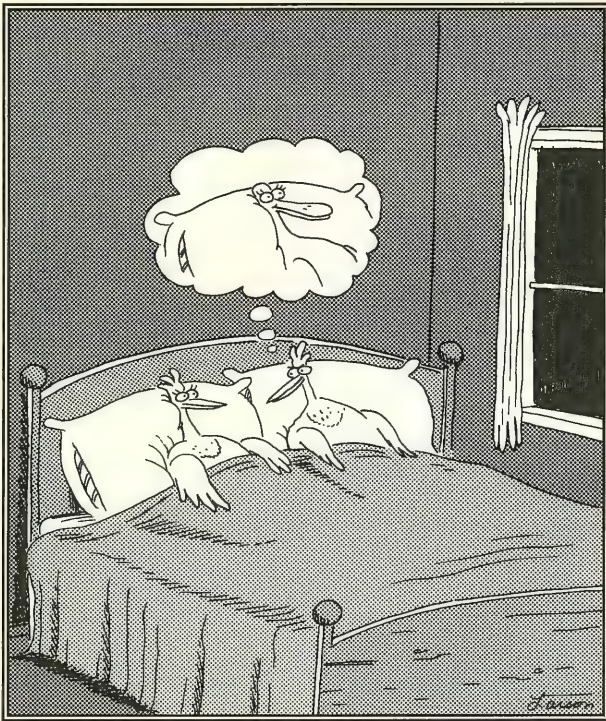


He was king of the sheep.



Wellington held out some beads and other trinkets, but the islanders had sent their fiercest lawyers—some of whom were chanting, "Sue him! Sue him!"

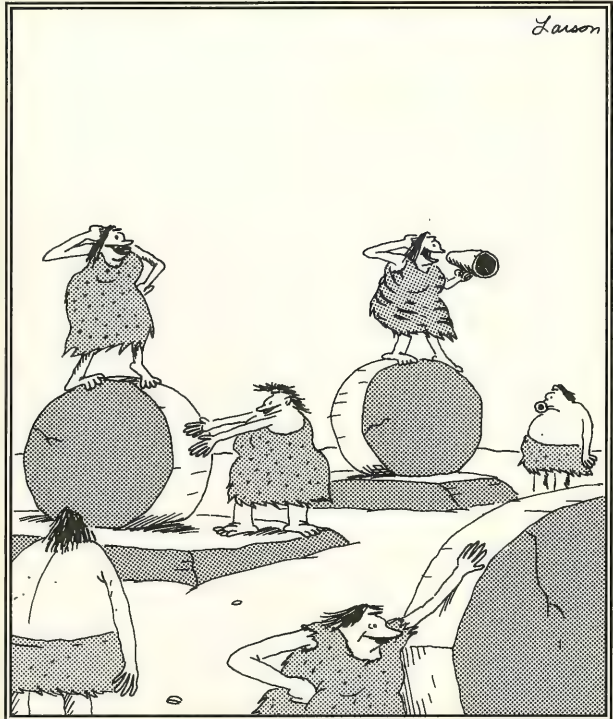
7/17/92



Chicken sexual fantasies

7/22/92

Larson



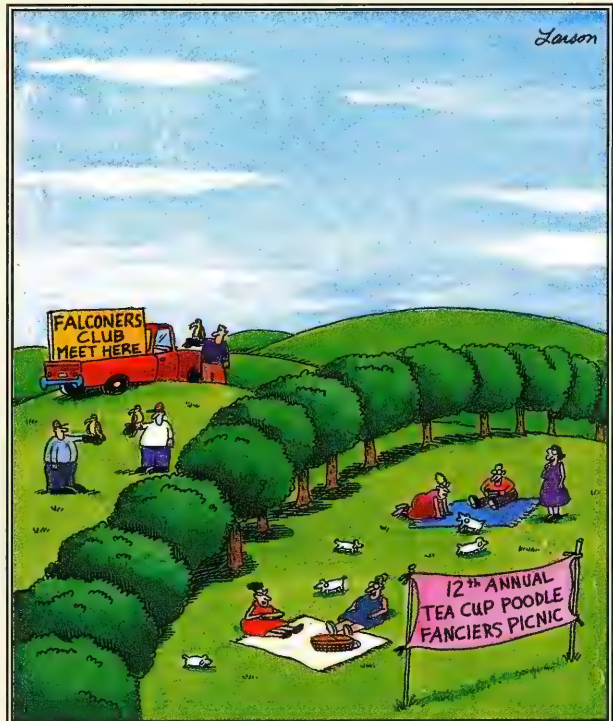
Early spokesmodels

7/24/92

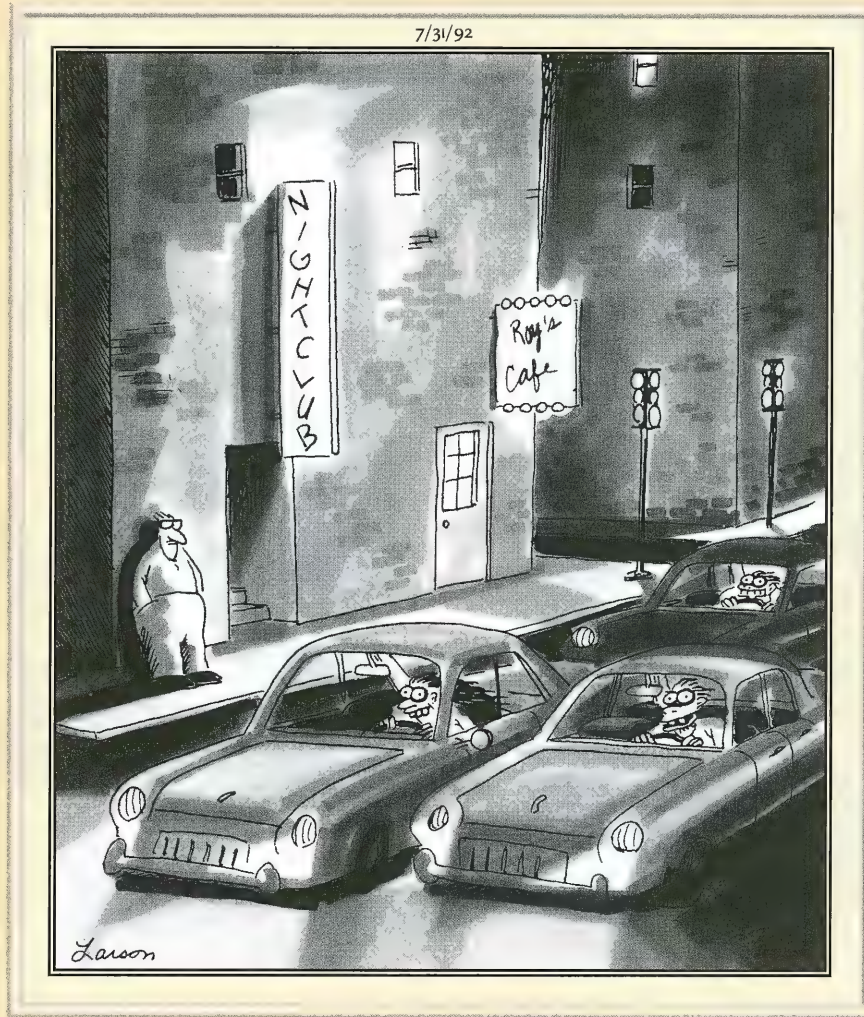


7/27/92

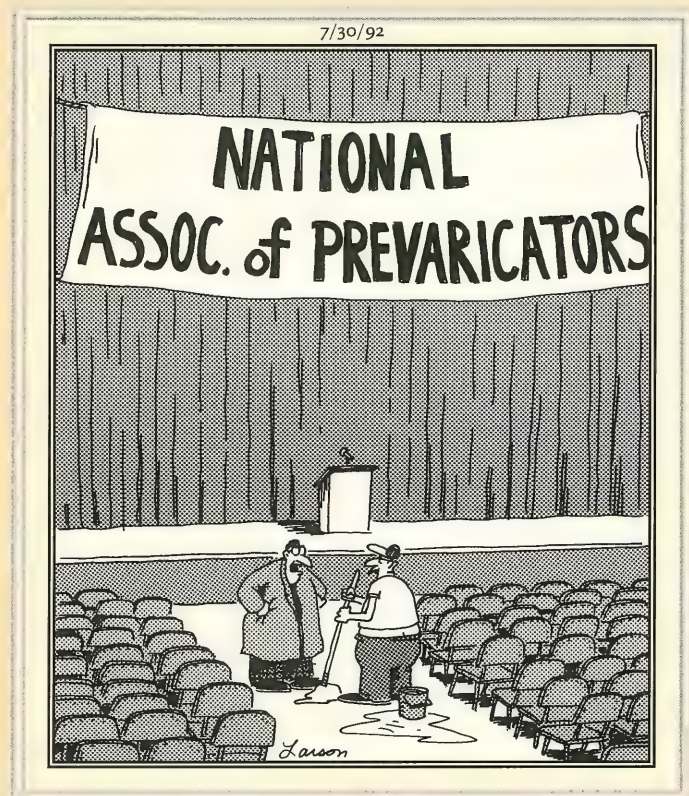
Larson



Trouble brewing



Zoombies: the driving dead



"Yesterday? I was told the meeting was *today!*"

8/4/92



The living hell of Maurice, Jacques Cousteau's cat

8/5/92



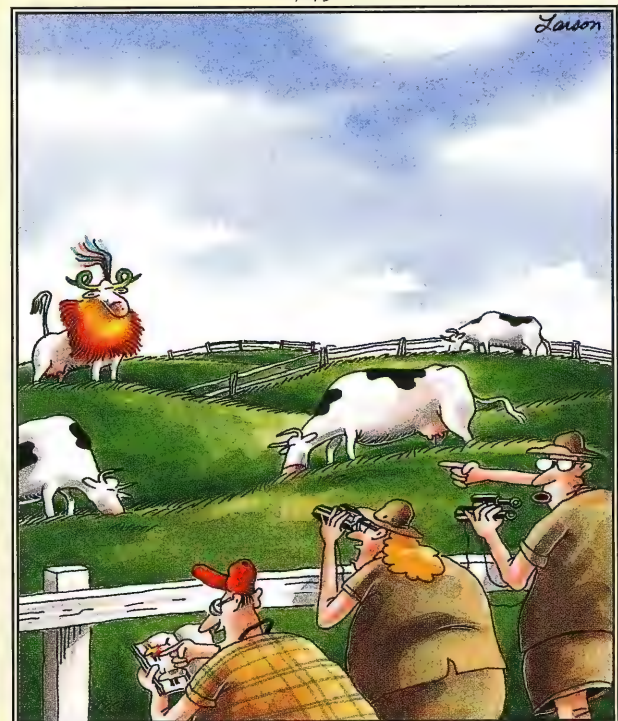
"Well, there goes Binky with the boss again. ...
What a red-noser!"

8/3/92



The Zeonions came with the answers to many secrets of the universe. Vern, regrettably, came with thick glasses and his deer rifle.

8/6/92



And then the bovine watchers were given a real treat. On a small knoll, in full splendor, there suddenly appeared a Guatemalan cow of paradise.

8/10/92



Long before his rise to fame, artist Gus Nickerson experimented with many variations on a single theme—until that fateful day when a friend said, “Gus ... have you tried *dogs* playing poker?”

8/12/92



8/11/92

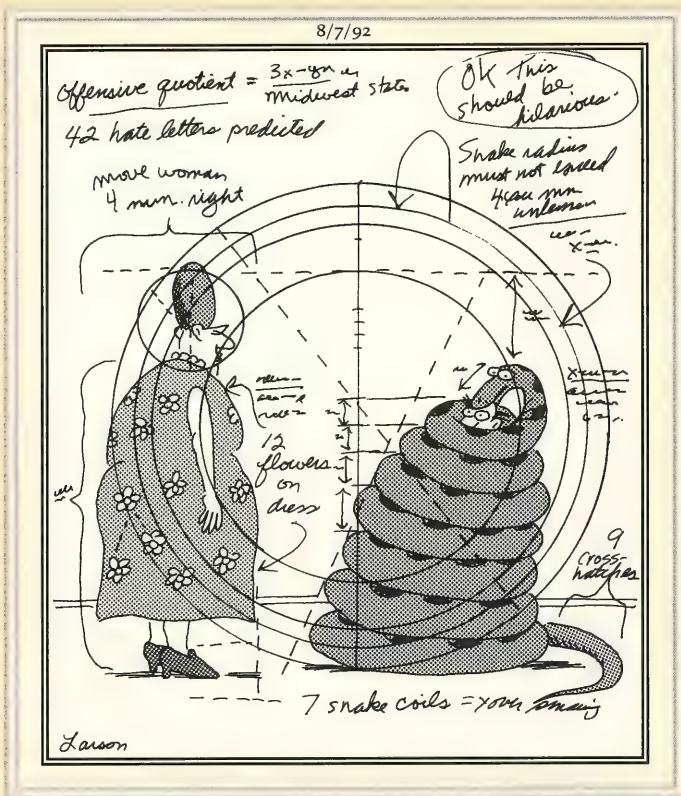


Where the respective worlds of boating and herpetology converge.

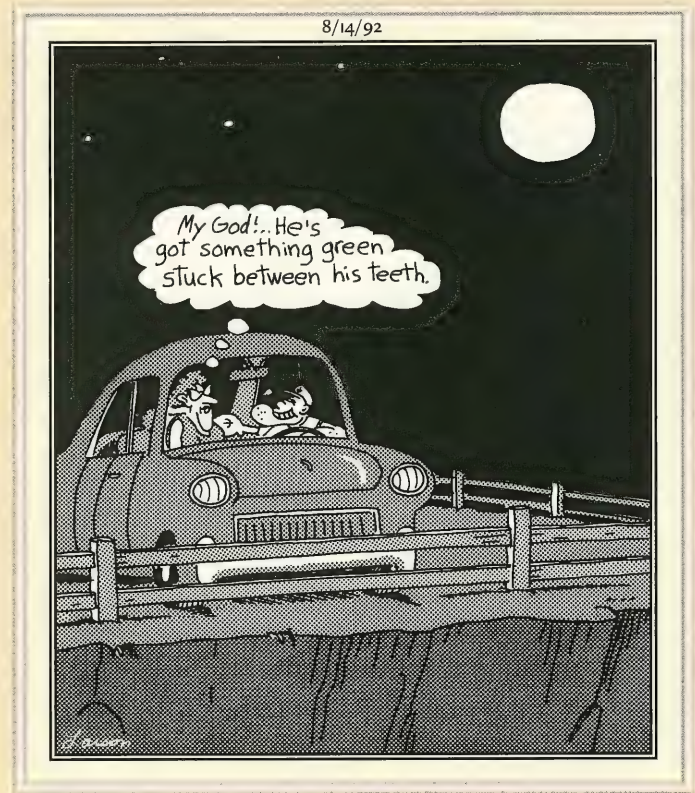
8/13/92



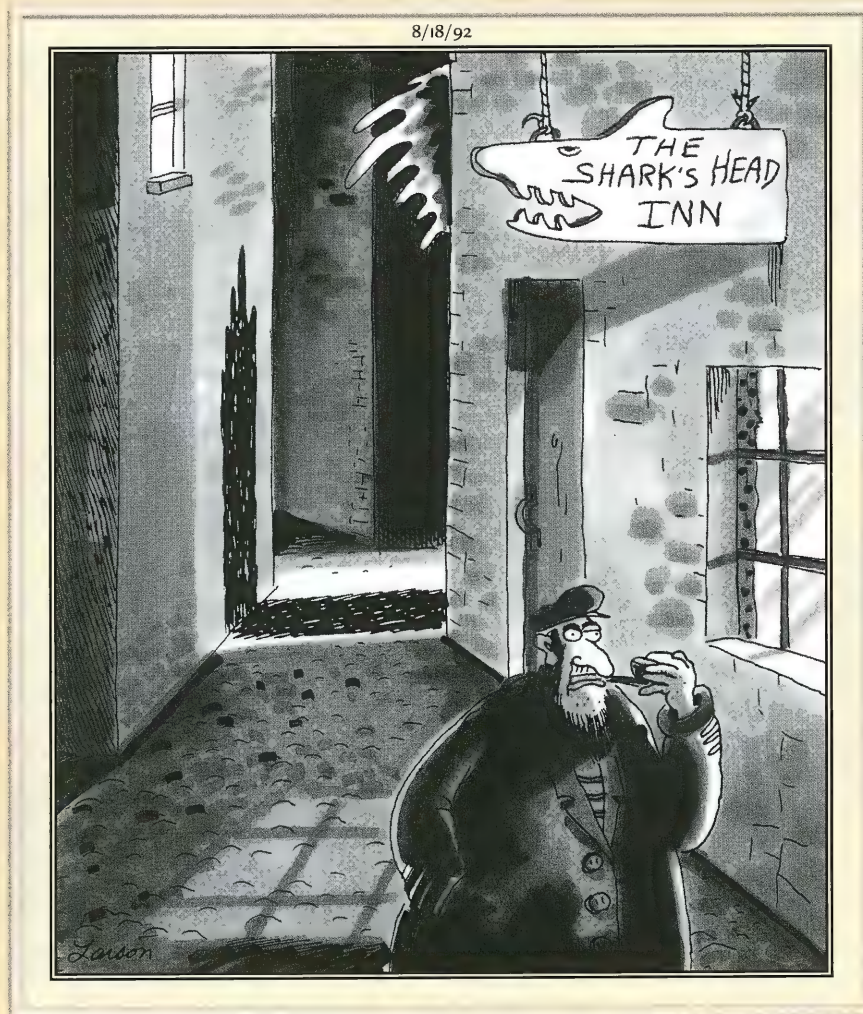
At Humpty's funeral



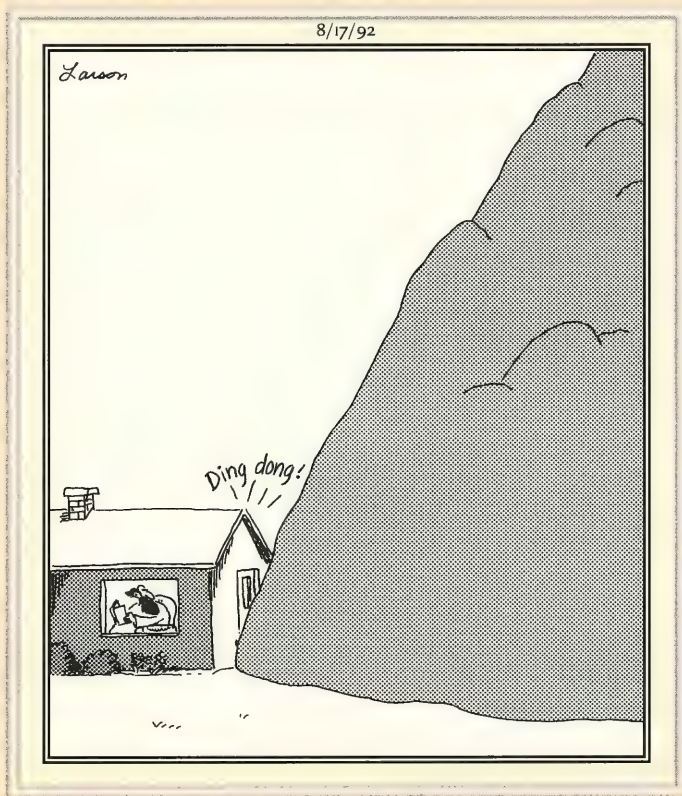
Revealing some of the mathematical computations every cartoonist must know.



Popeye on the dating scene



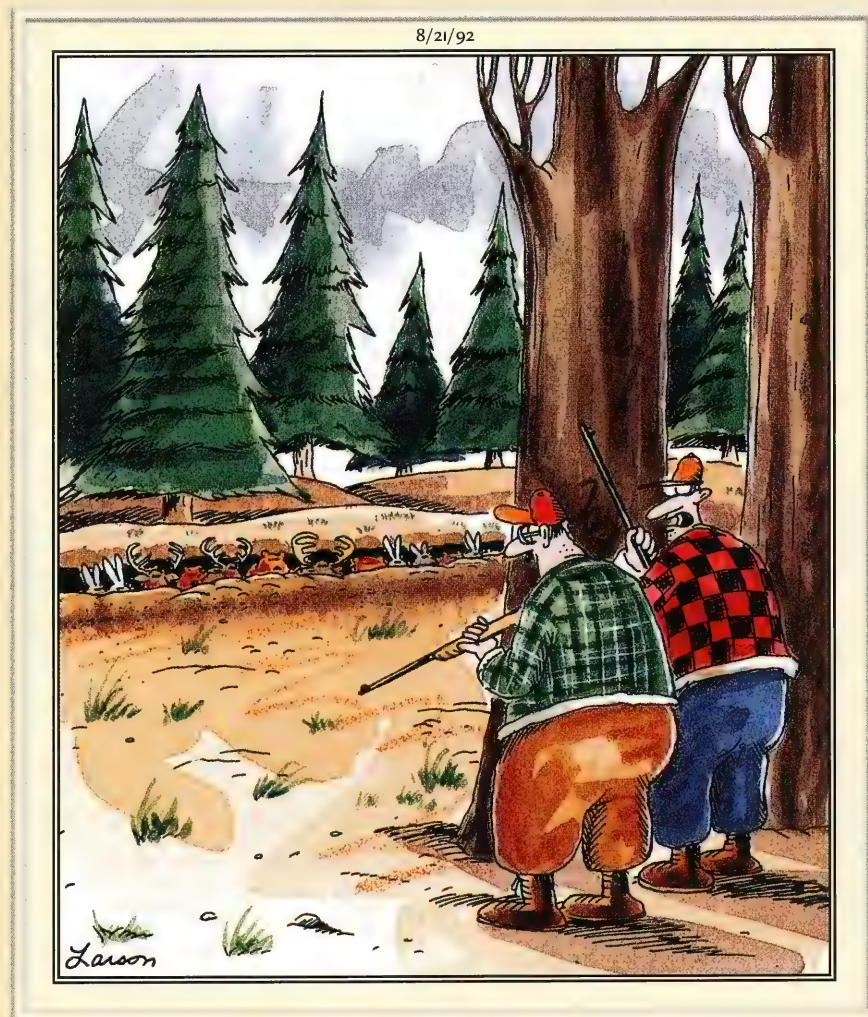
That night, Captain MacIntyre was killed by a following sea.



Again the doorbell chimed. With his wife out of town, and not expecting any visitors, Mohammed began to grow uneasy.

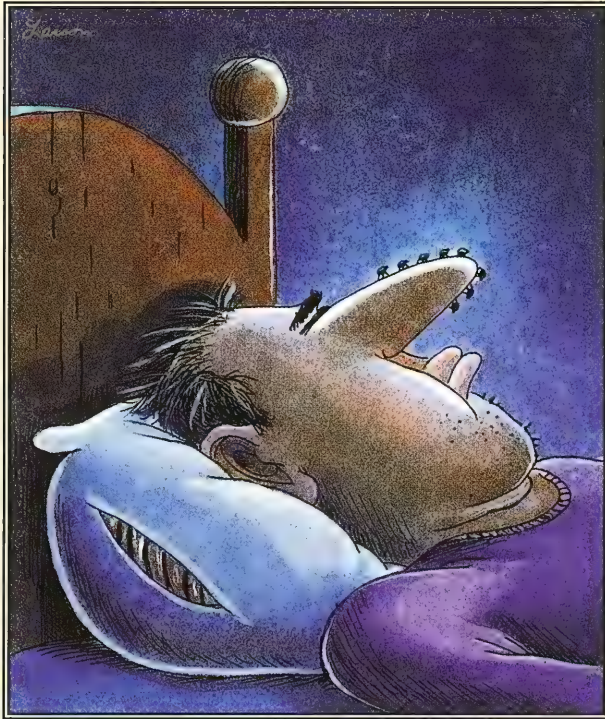


The writers for *Bewitched* sit down for their weekly brainstorming session.



"I've never seen this before, Roy! ... They've all stopped running!"

8/24/92



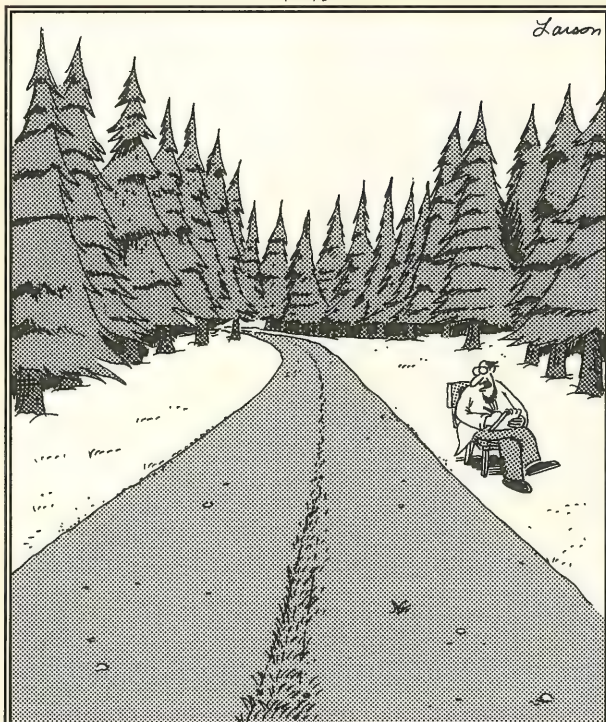
Every August, the fleas would test their endurance in the grueling Tour de Frank.

8/26/92



"Hey, boy! How ya doin'? ... Look at him, Dan. Poor guy's been floating out here for days, but he's still just as fat and happy as ever."

8/20/92

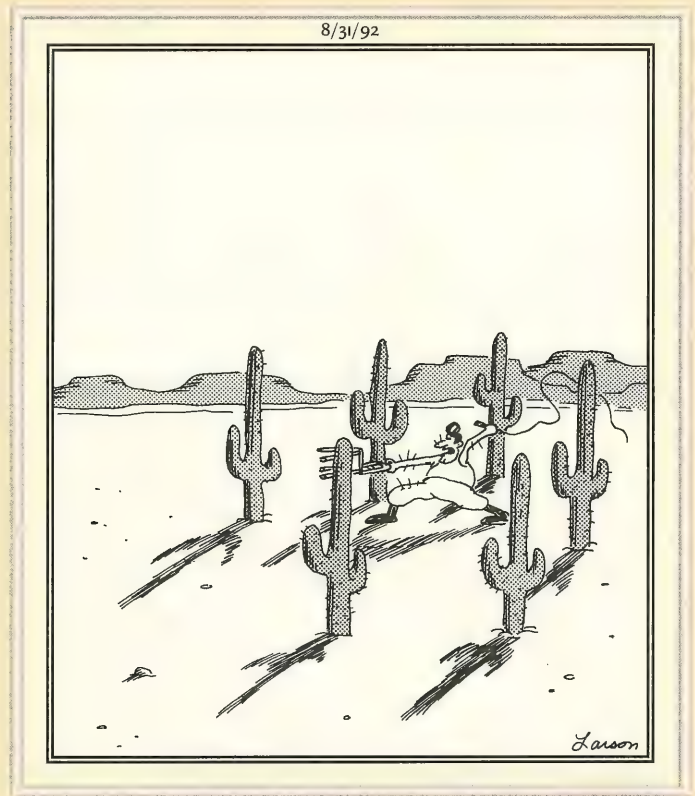
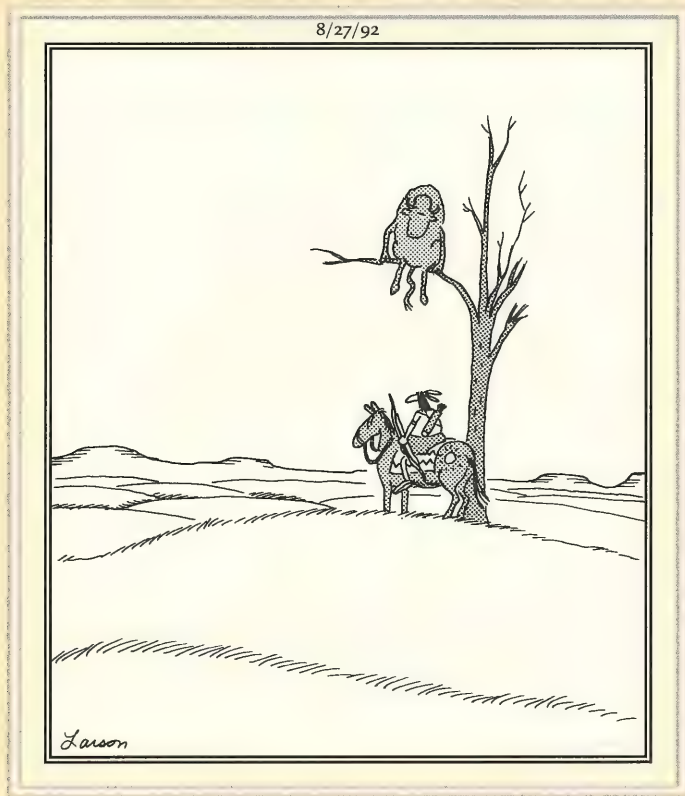


"Now now now. ... You won't be a lonely road forever, you know."

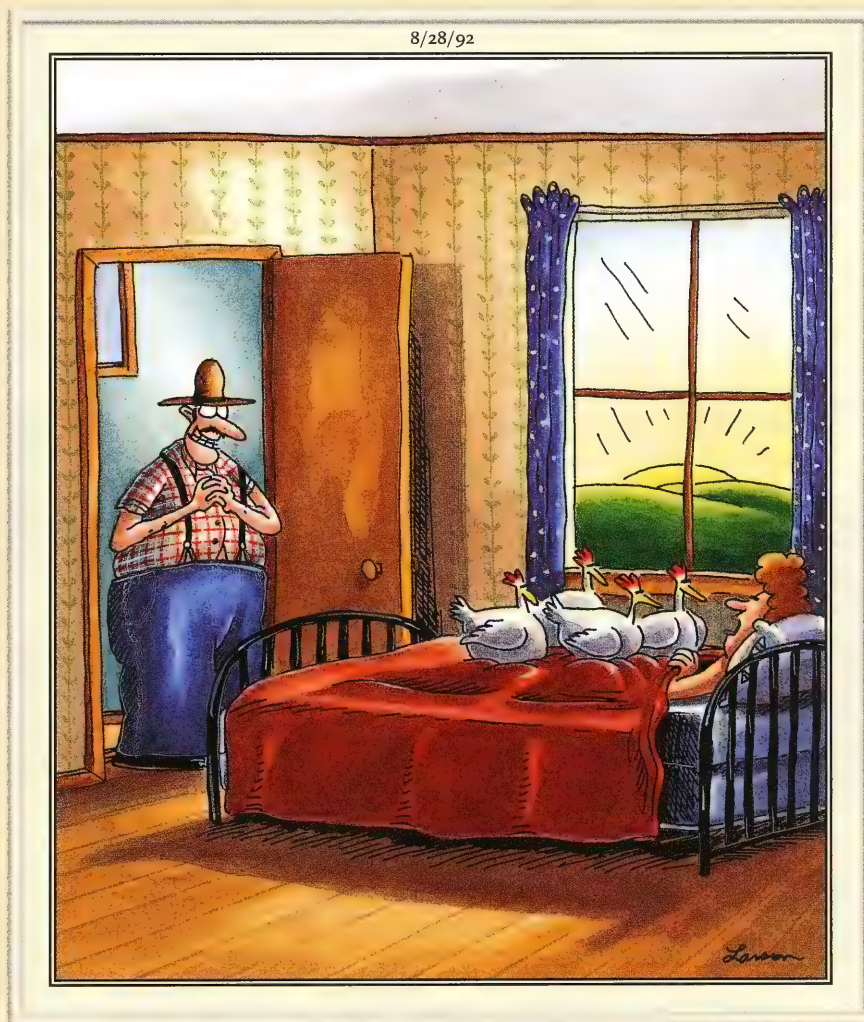
8/25/92



Things from Ipanema

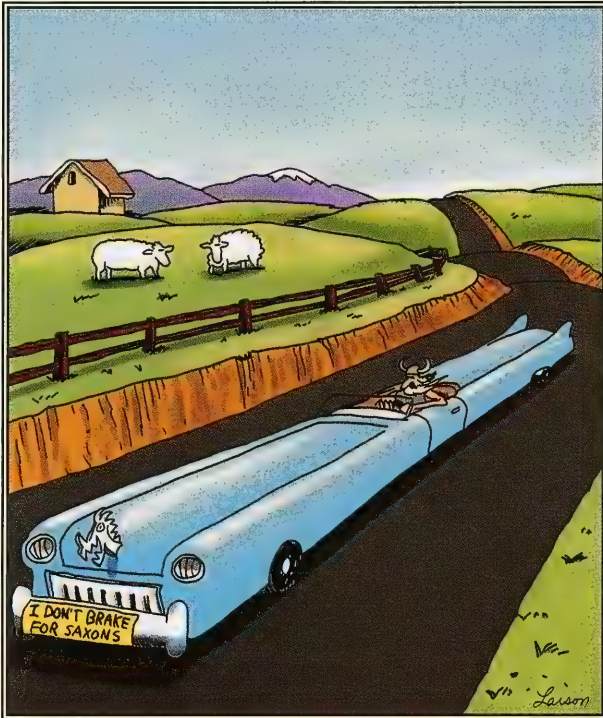


Andre Lafleur: cactus tamer
(later killed in central Arizona)



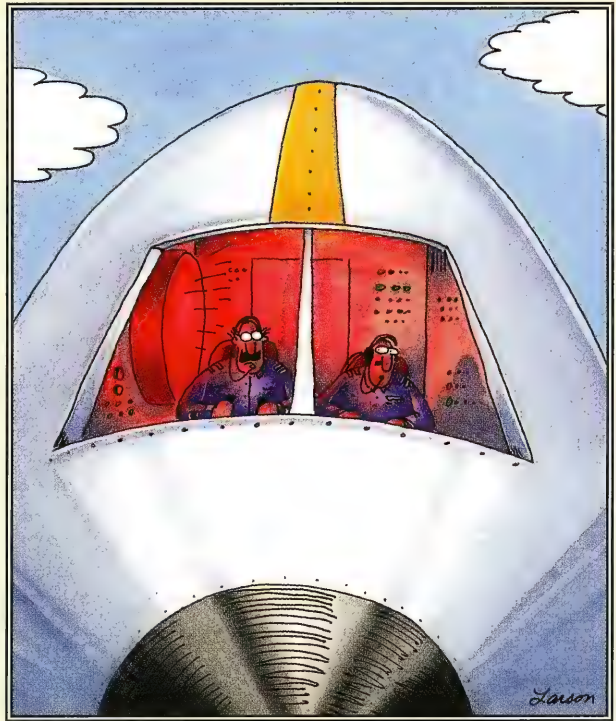
"This is it, Maurice! I've warned you to keep
your hens off me!"

9/1/92



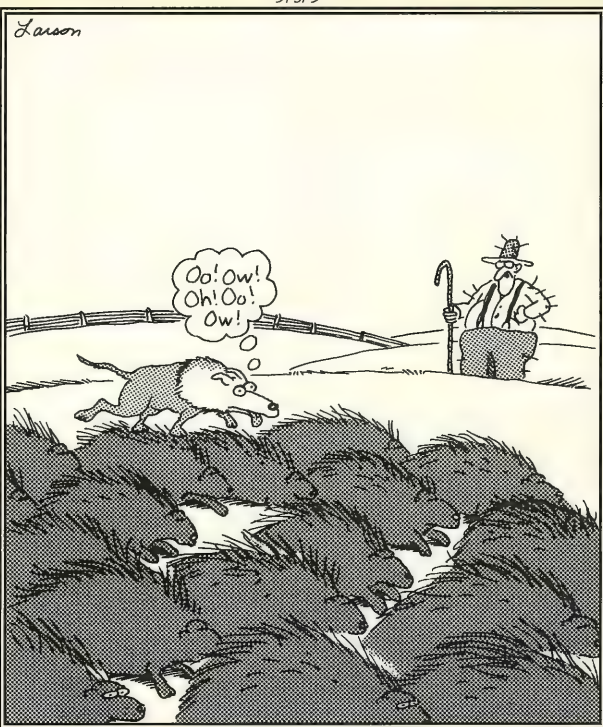
The Viking longcar was once the scourge of European roadways.

9/4/92



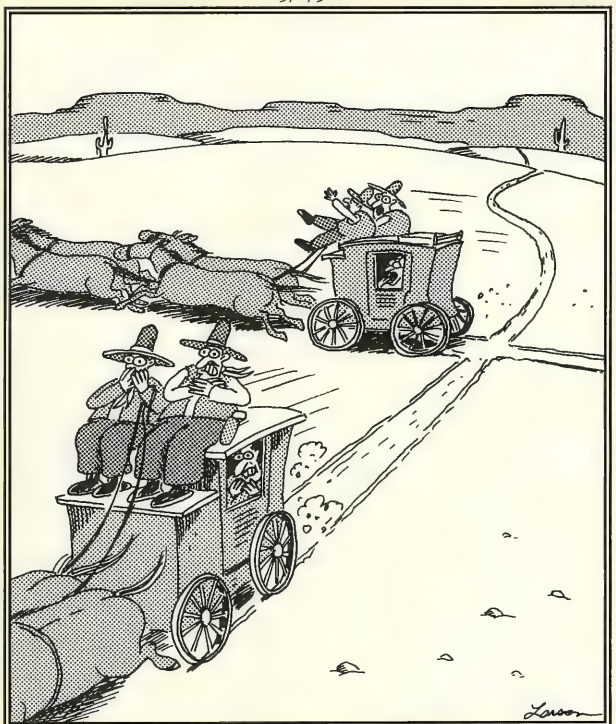
"I'm afraid we're going to have to head back, folks. ... We've got a warning light on up here, and darn if it isn't the big one."

9/3/92

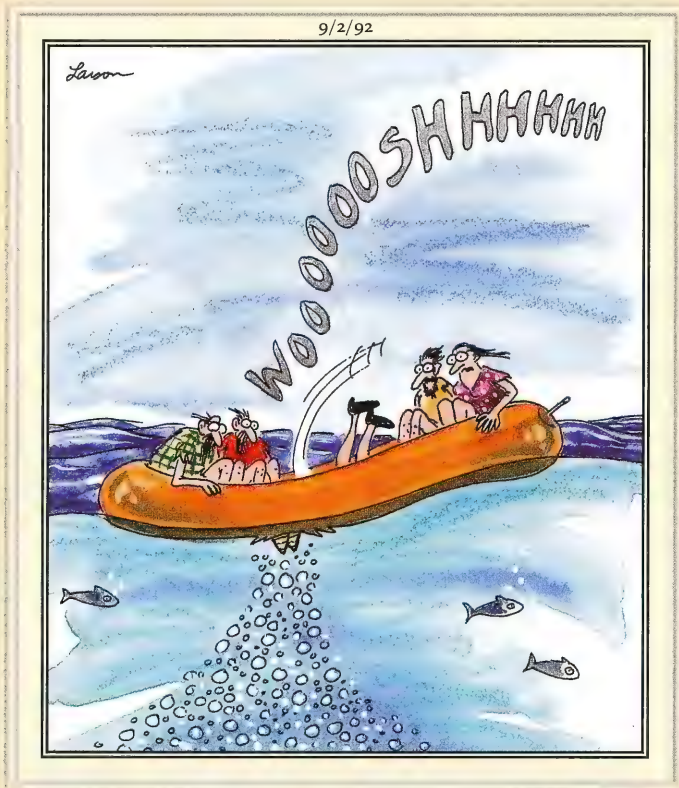


Indispensable workers on any porcupine ranch, these amazing dogs will sometimes run across the backs of their charges.

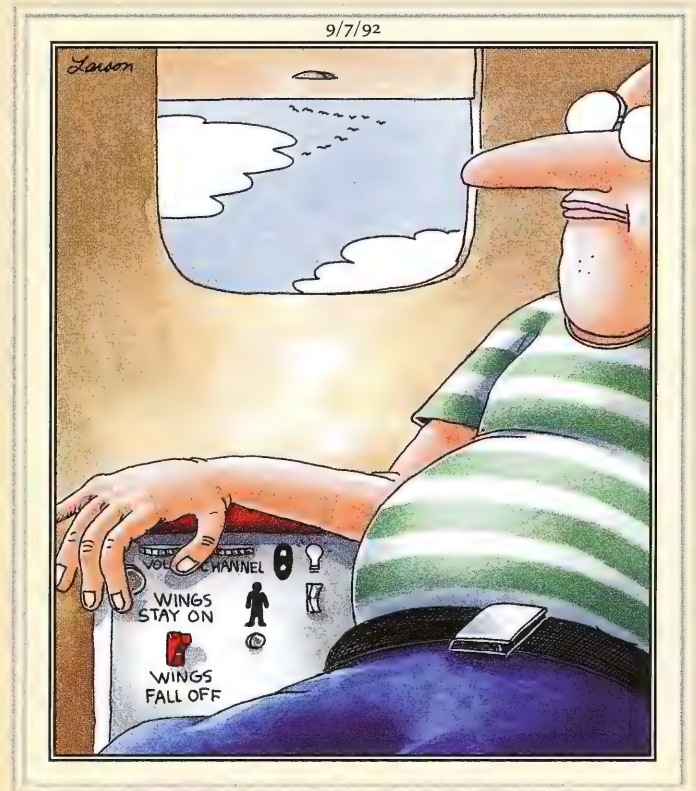
9/8/92



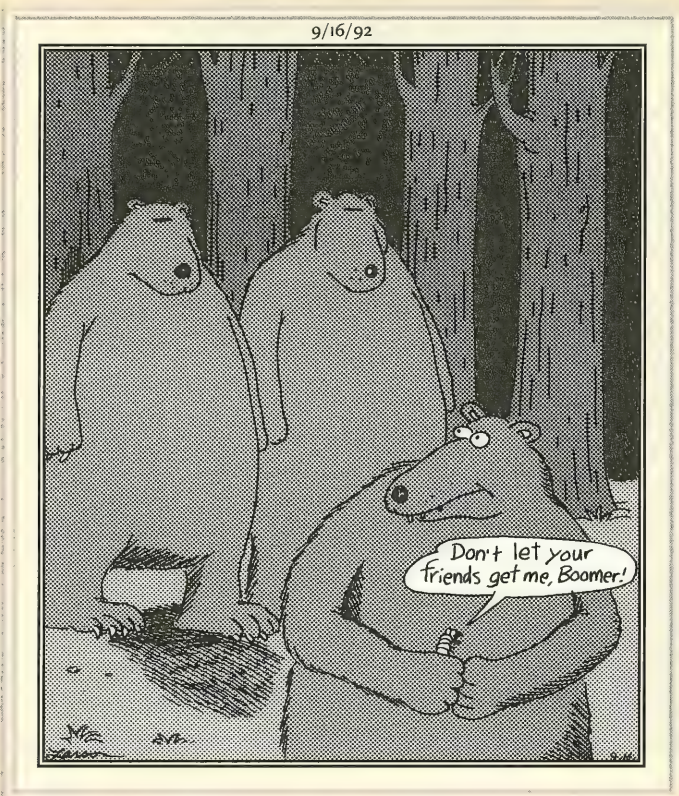
Near misses of the Old West



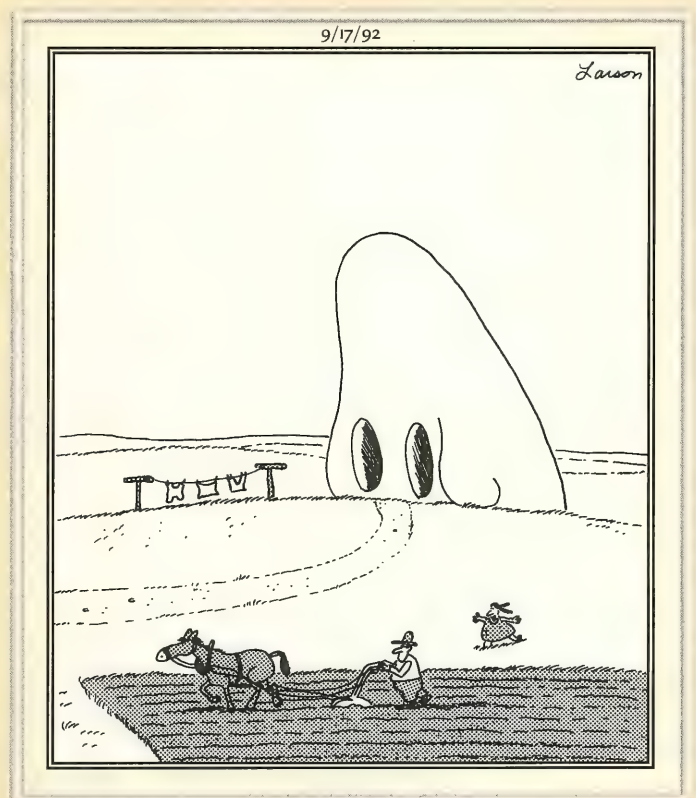
To the horror of the lifeboat's other members, Madonna loses her balance and falls on her face.



Fumbling for his recline button, Ted unwittingly instigates a disaster.



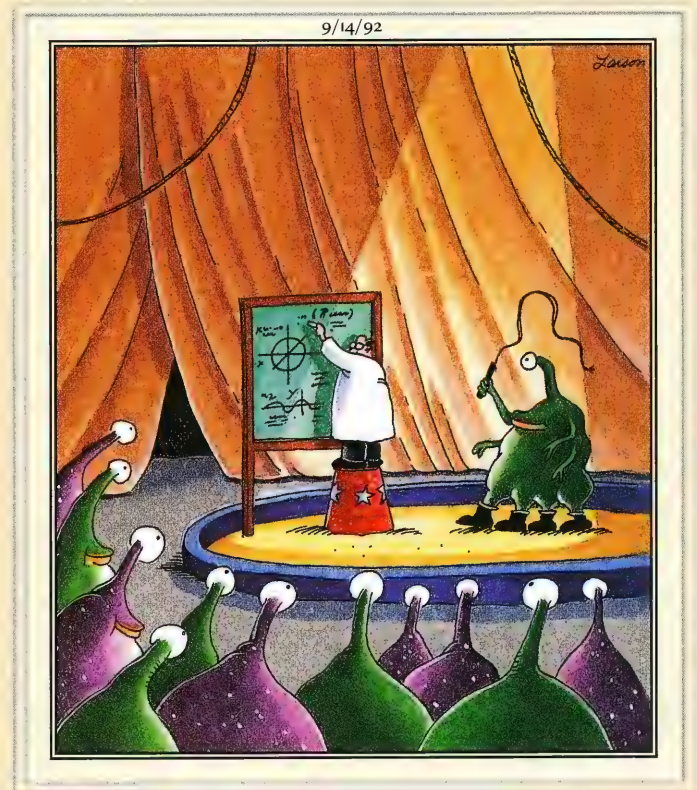
Boomer and Doug's relationship was never fully accepted by the other bears, who regarded all grubs in a much more traditional way.



Laura runs to greet her pa in this scene from *Big Nose on the Prairie*.



Red Cloud's ultimate nightmare



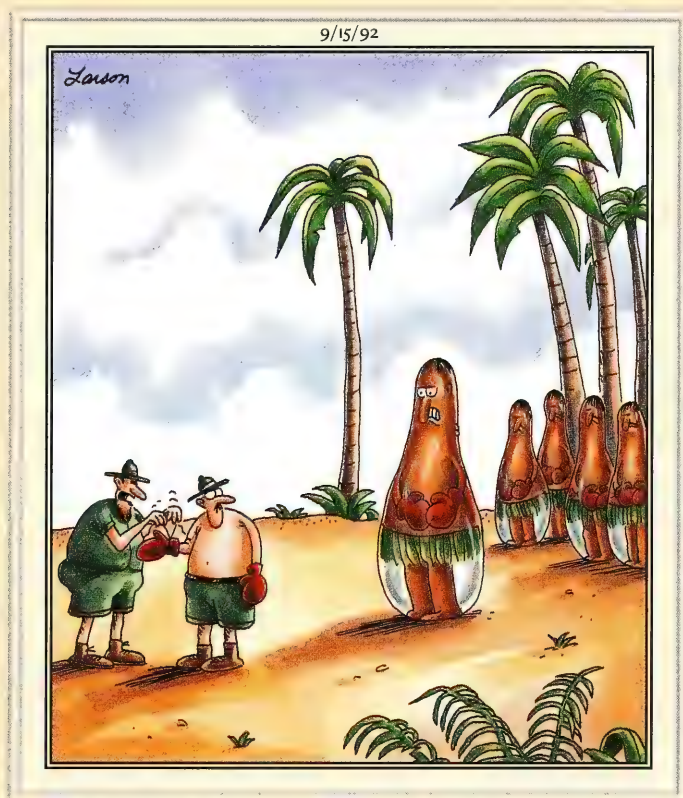
Abducted by an alien circus company, Professor Doyle is forced to write calculus equations in center ring.



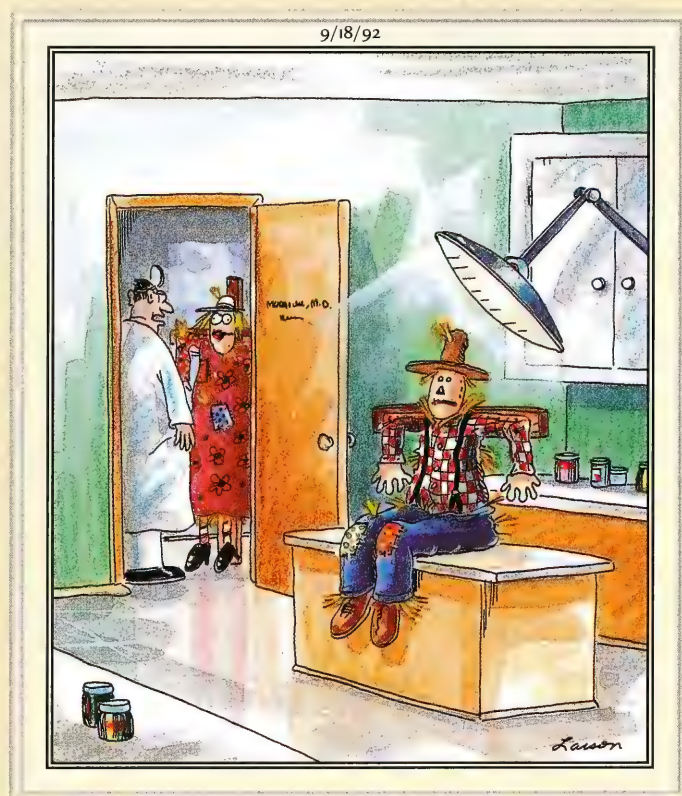
At Slow Cheetahs Anonymous



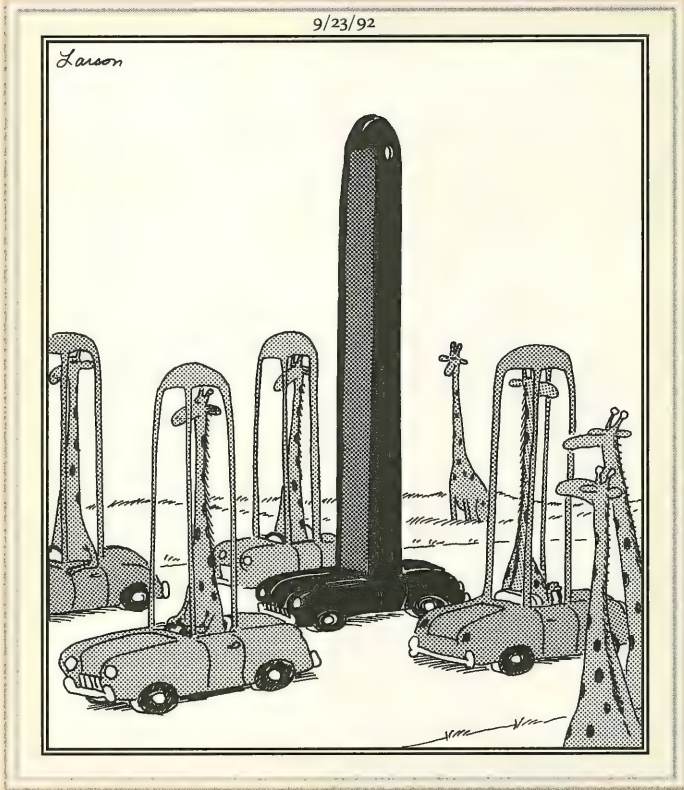
Calf delinquents



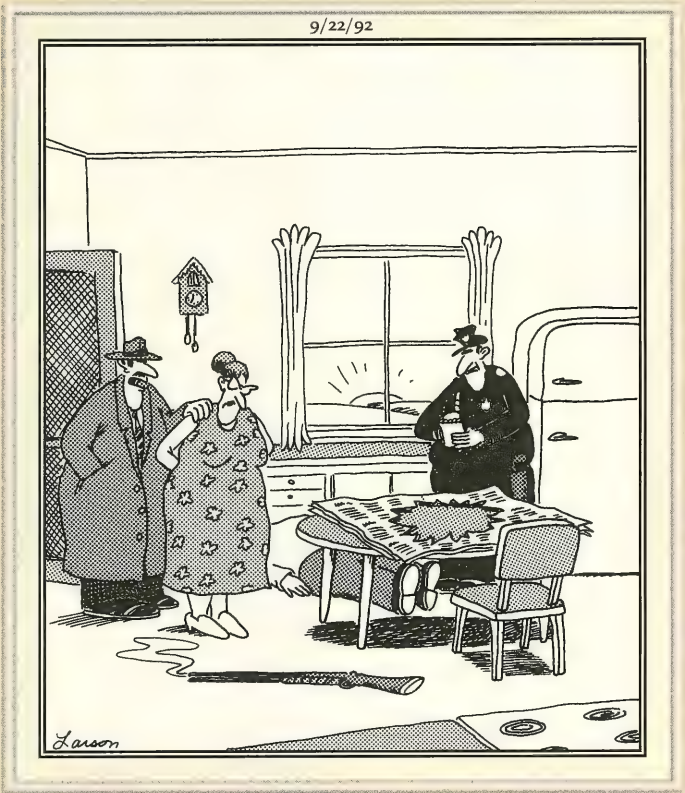
"Remember, Calloway, this is their biggest and best warrior—so stay alert! When you knock him down, he's gonna come right back at ya!"



"It's not good, ma'am. ... He's got field mice."



Giraffe limos

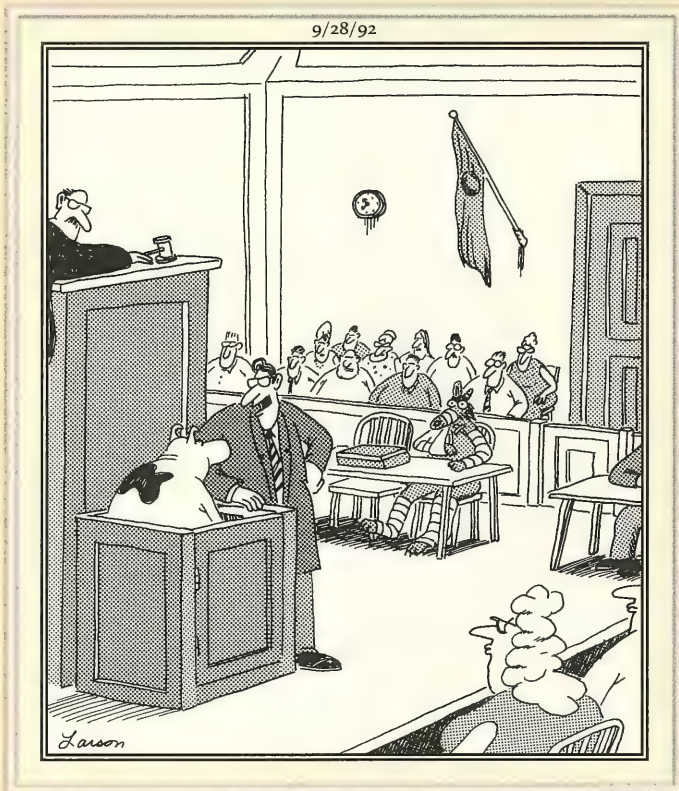


"Okay, ma'am, you said you warned your husband to put the newspaper down or you'd blow him away. ... Did he respond?"

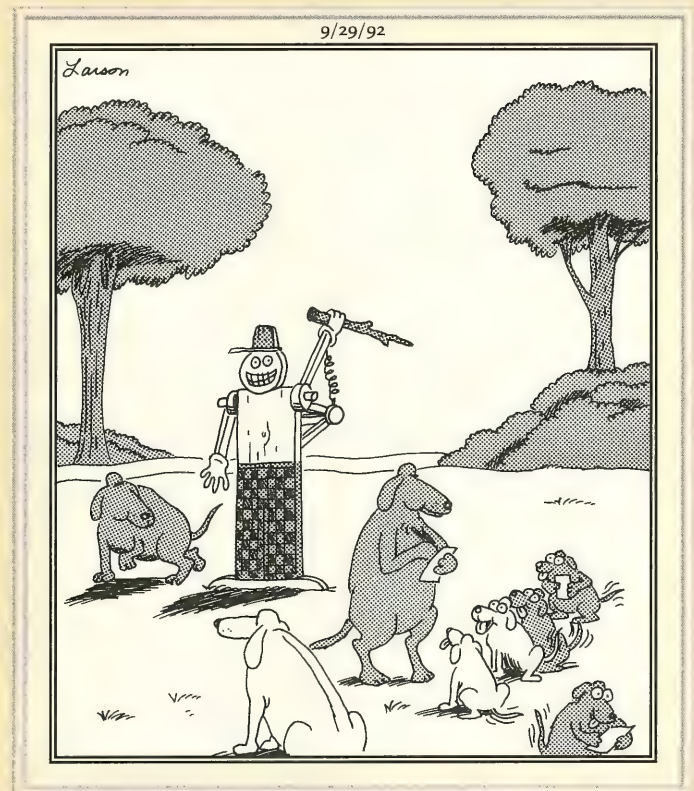


Tensions mount on the Lewis and Clark expedition.





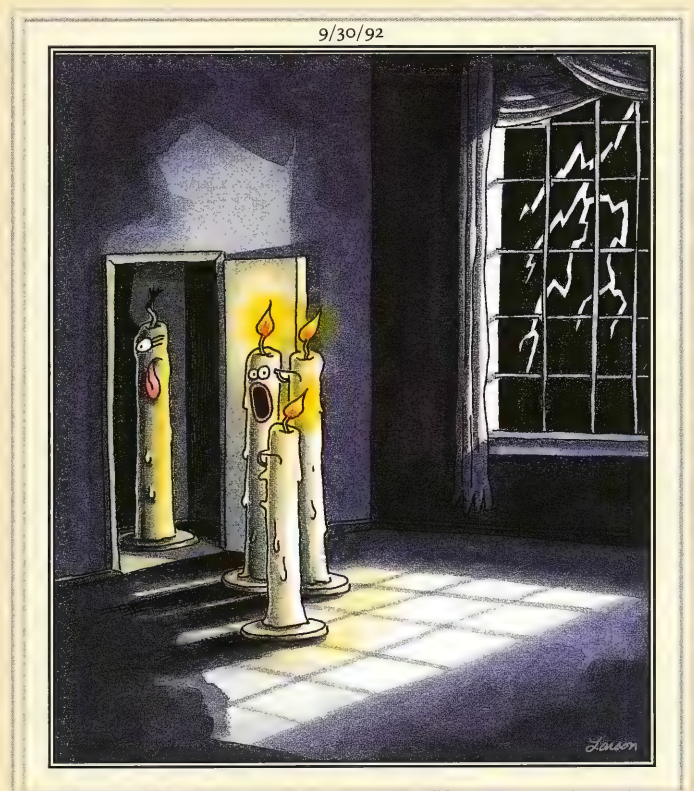
"So, Mr. Pig—you built that fire *after* you heard my client coming down your chimney? ... Did you know my client is an endangered species, Mr. Pig, while you yourself are nothing more than a walking side of ham?"



At the professional stick chaser's training camp



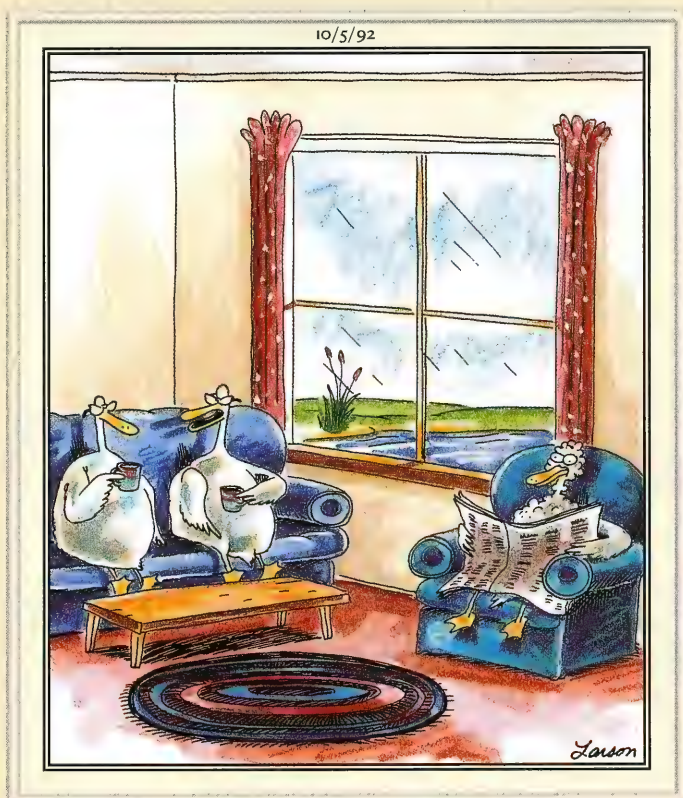
Suddenly, the cops stepped into the clearing, and the spamshiners knew they were busted.



"Aaaaaaaaaa! It's Sid! ... Someone snuffed him!"

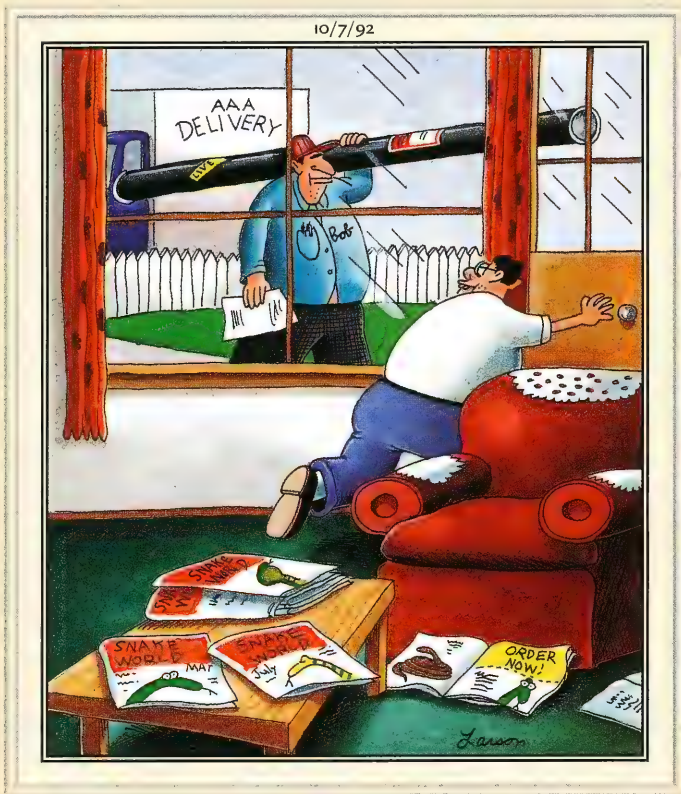


It was always a bizarre spectacle, but no one ever, ever, ridiculed the Teapot Kid.

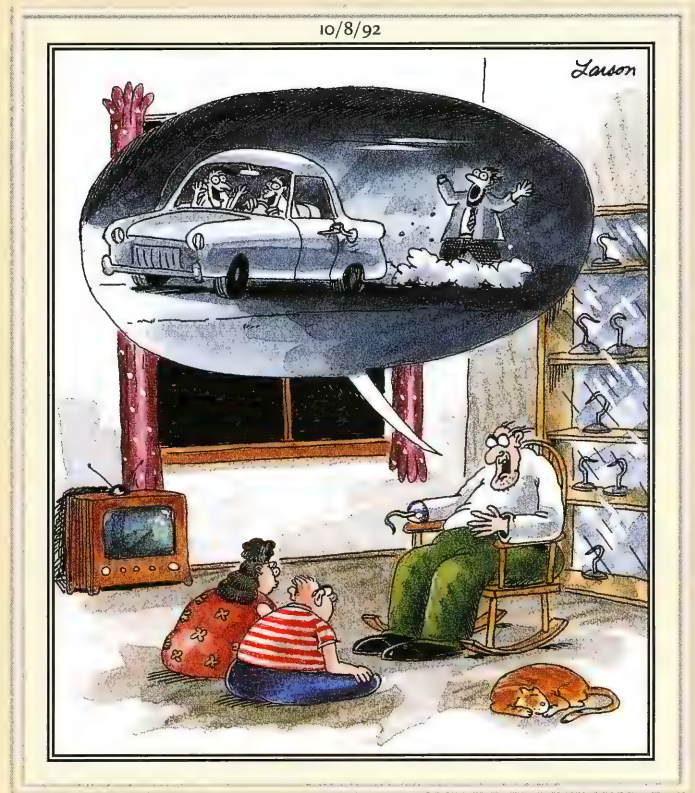


"Oh, it's just Hank's little cross to bear—he's allergic to down and that's that."





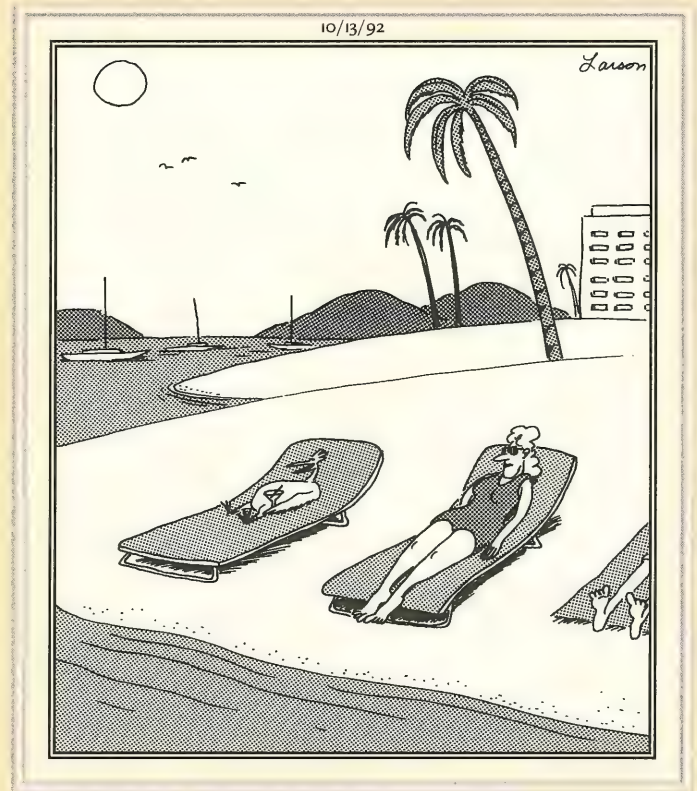
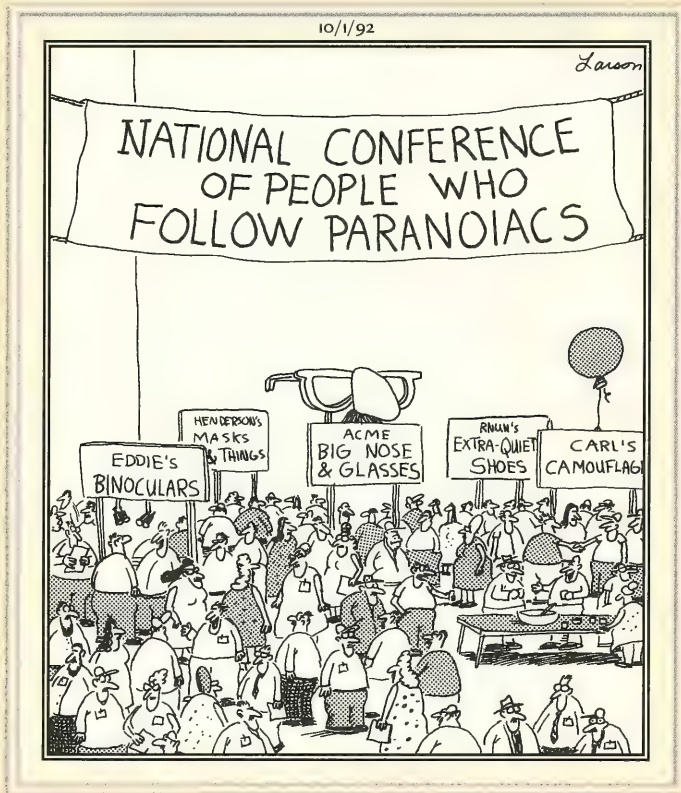
A big day for Jimmy



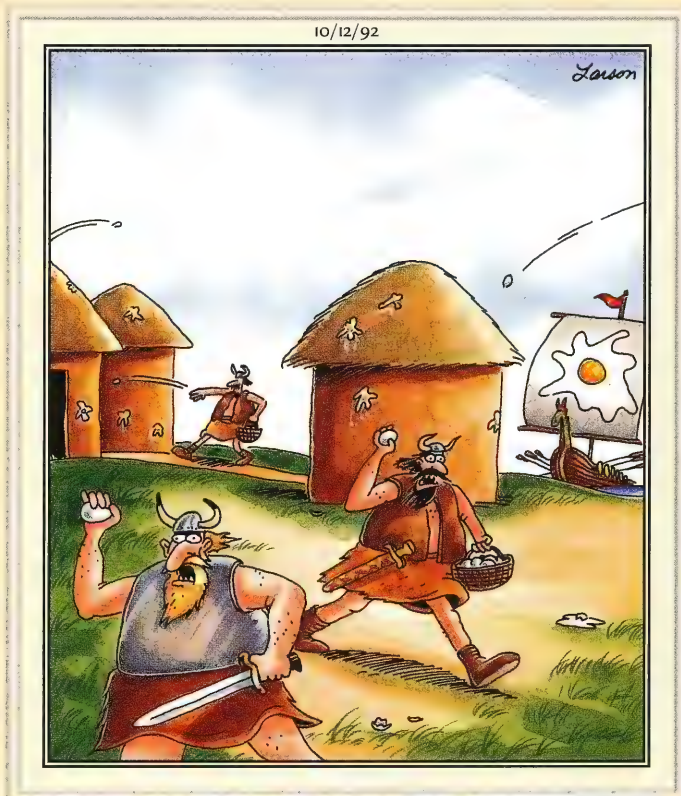
Years later, Harold Zimmerman, the original "Hookhand" of campfire ghost stories, tells his grandchildren the "Tale of the Two Evil Teenagers."



"Nerd! ... Dang!"



"Fools! They made me into a free-range chicken ... and man, I never looked back."



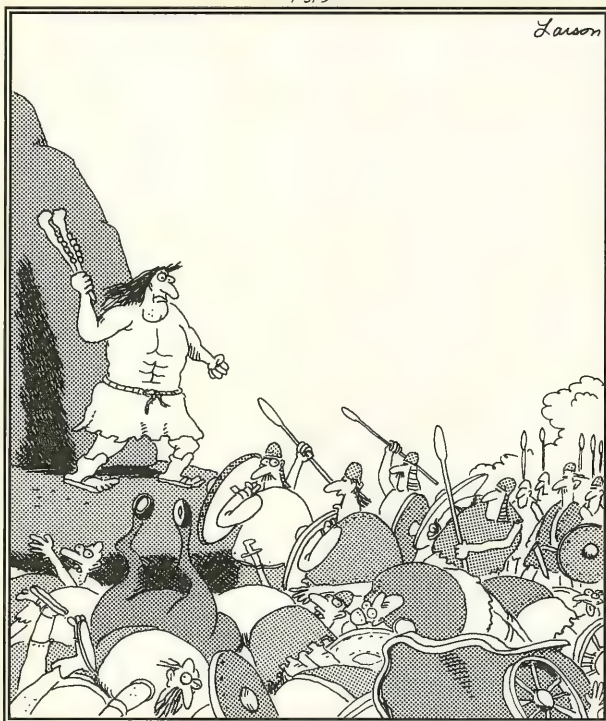
Historical note: For many years, until they became truly nasty, Vikings would plunder, loot, and then egg the houses of coastal villagers.



Explorers from another cartoon are captured and tortured by the savage Farsidians.

10/15/92

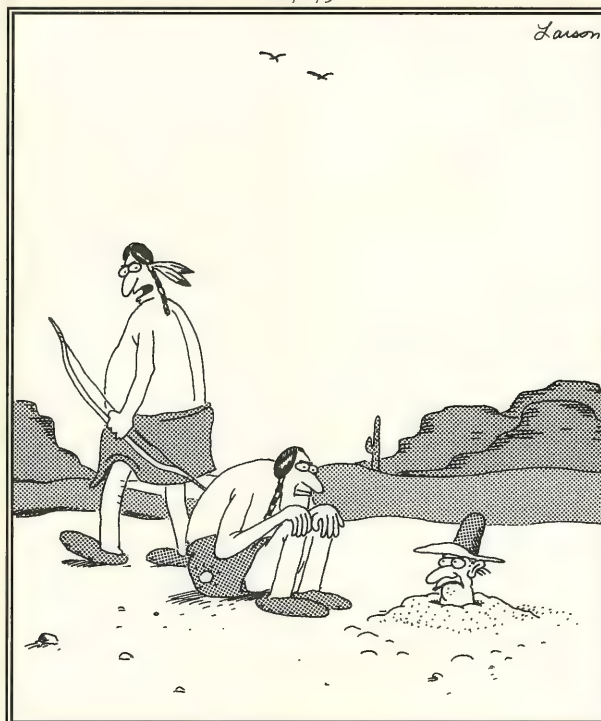
Larson



"Cornelius! I've been watching him! ...
Beware of the jawbone!"

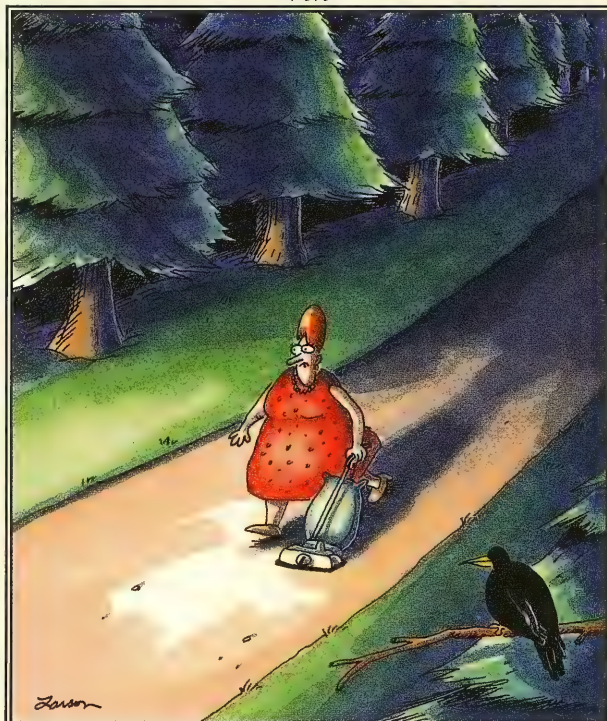
10/16/92

Larson



"Little Bear! A watched head never
gets eaten by ants."

10/19/92



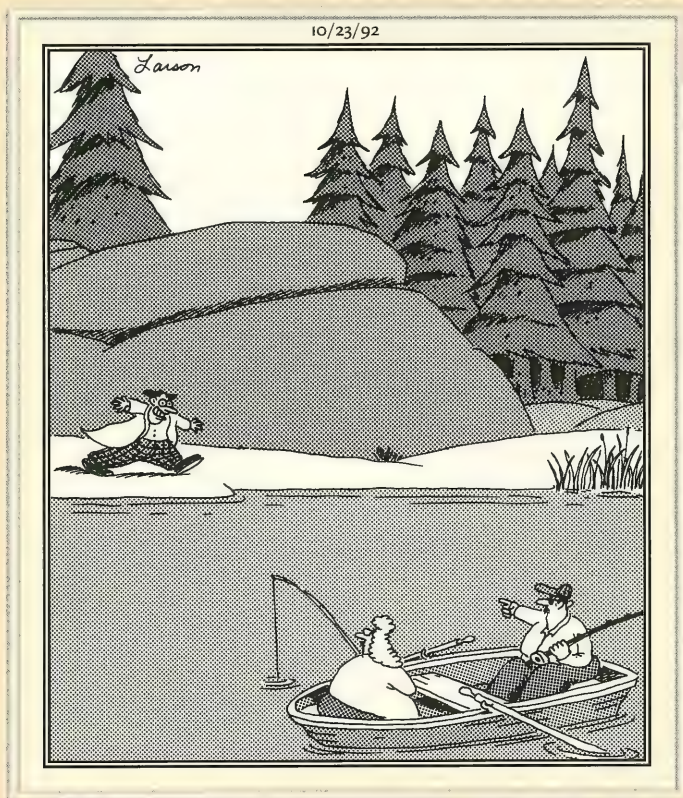
The woods were dark and foreboding, and Alice sensed that sinister eyes were watching her every step. Worst of all, she knew that Nature abhorred a vacuum.

10/22/92

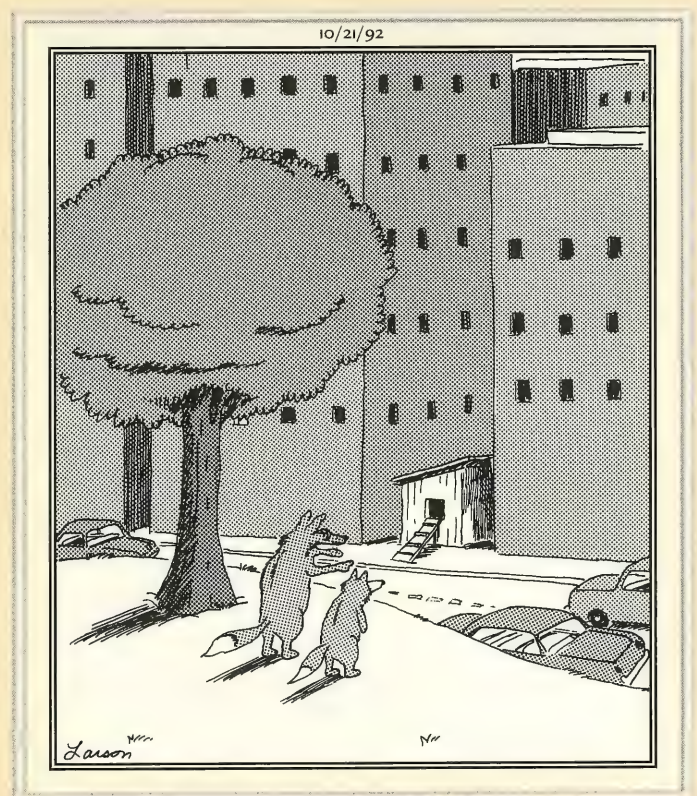




Early corsages

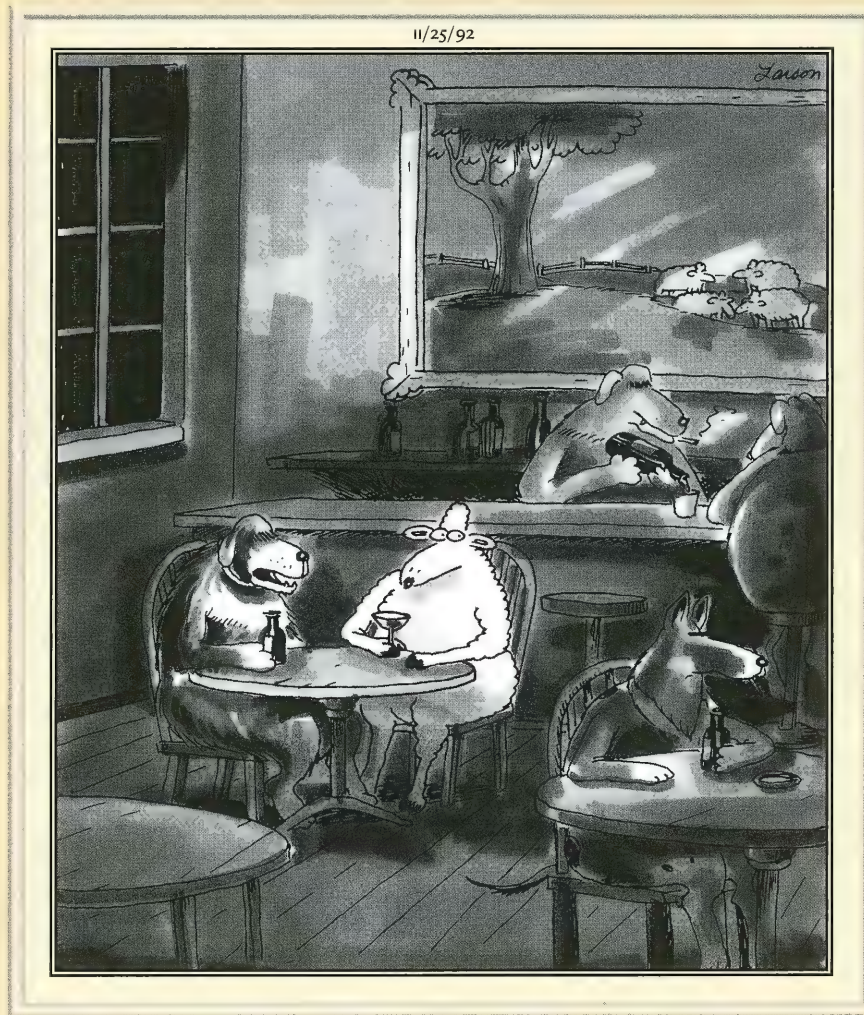


Suddenly, there he was, running along the far shore right in front of Bob and Vera, who would always remember they once saw the legendary "Character of the Lake."

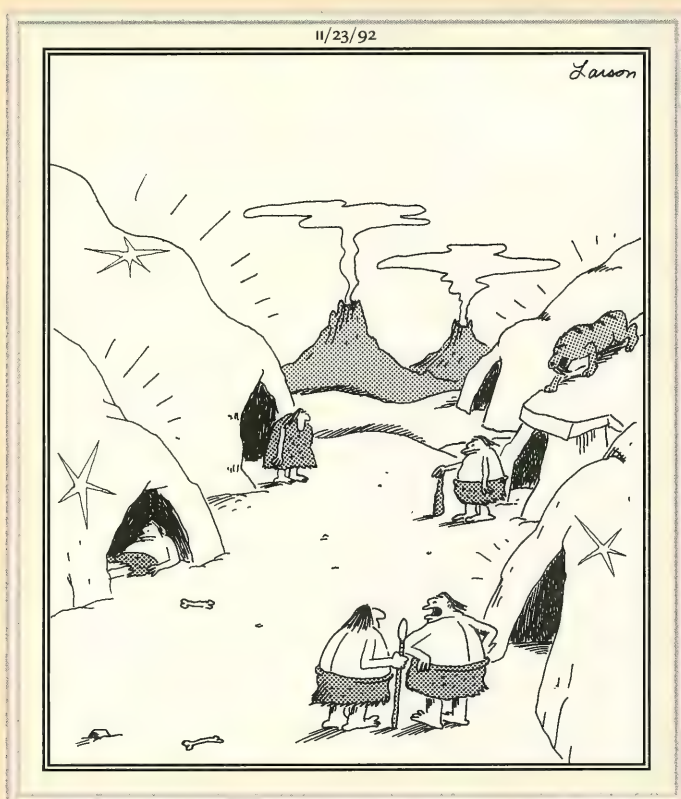


"Well, I'll be! It's still there! The henhouse I used to watch as a kid!"

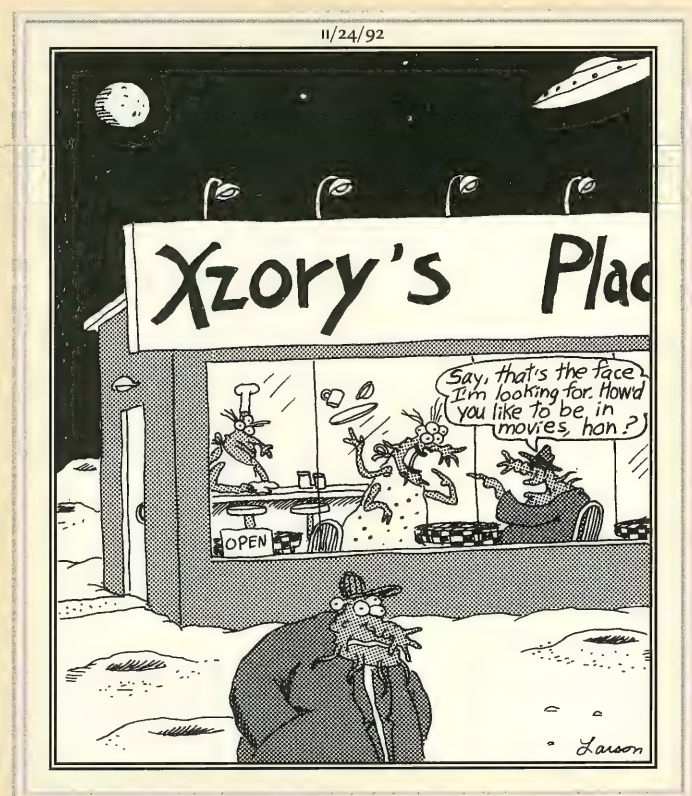
Editor's note:
Gary leaves for a one-month vacation.



"Confession time, Mona—I've lead you astray."



"One good thing about living in this age—
all the caves are brand-new."



Alien corner cafes, where sometimes
dreams do come true.

11/26/92



"What the? ... Waiter! This looks like a little slice of heaven!"

11/27/92

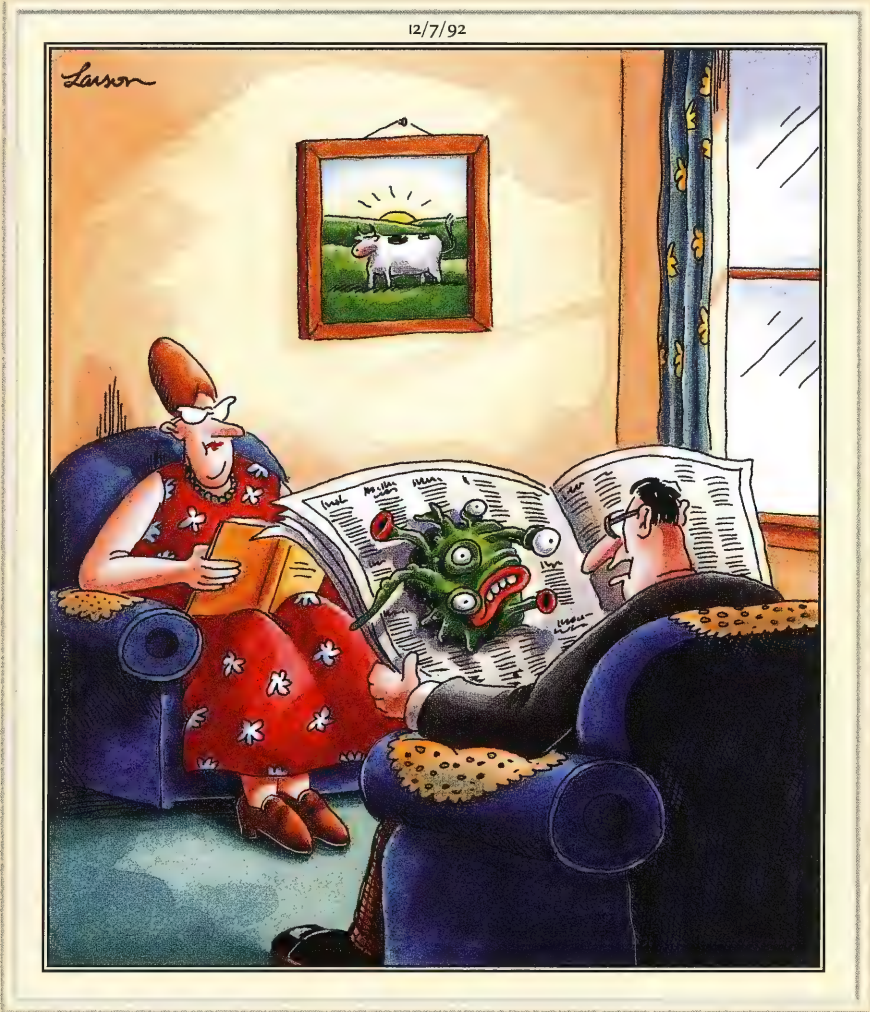


For several hours, confusion reigned.

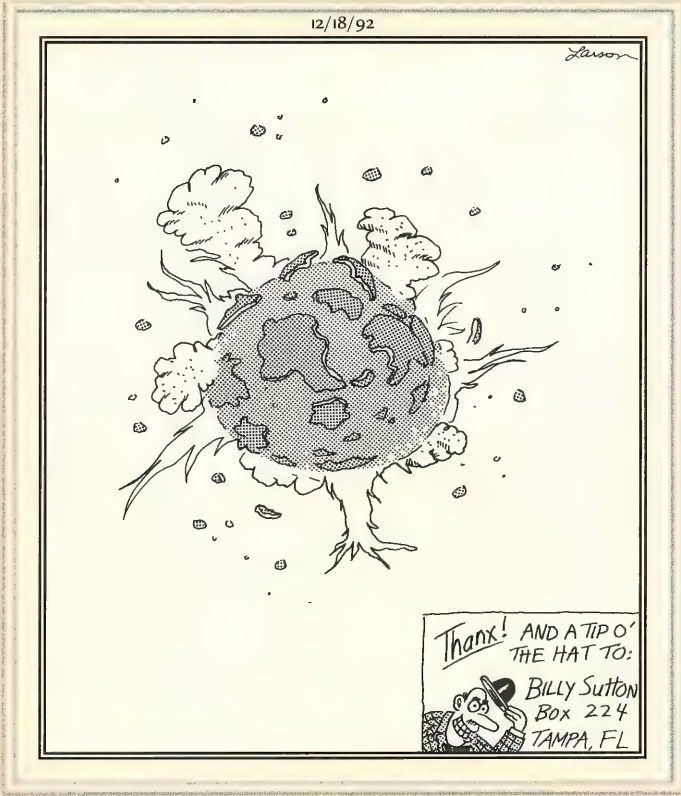
11/30/92



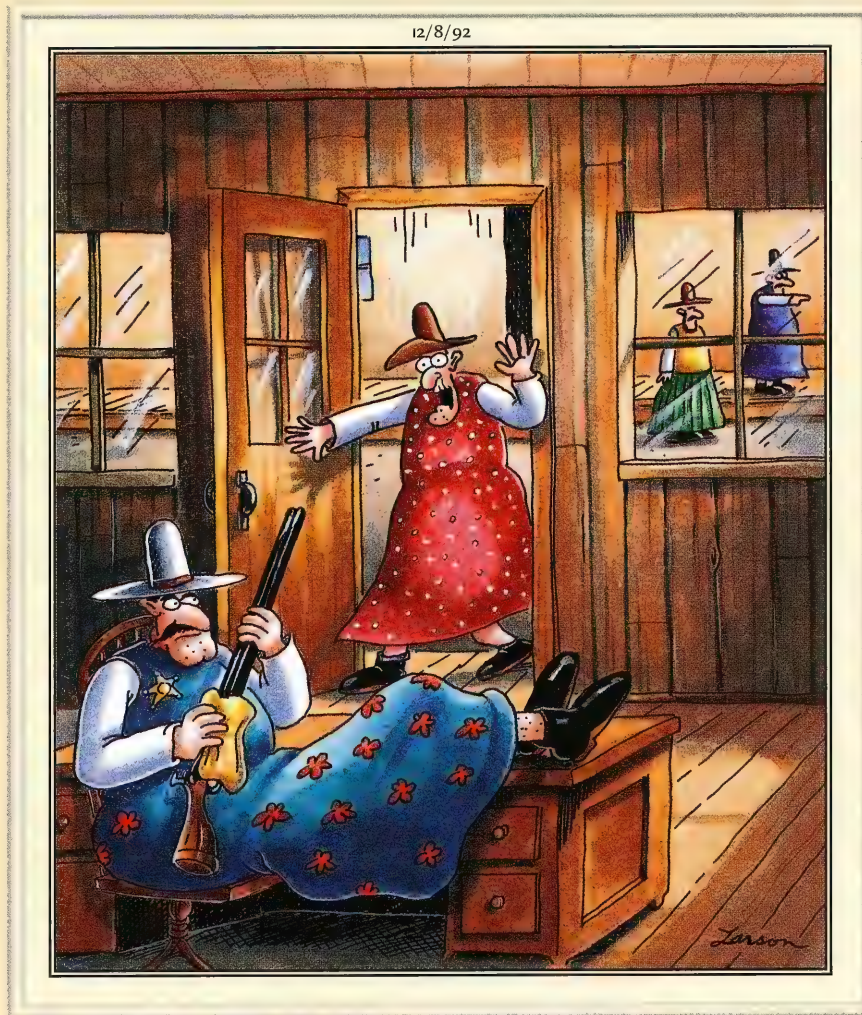
Later, Edna was forced to sell her Brussels sprout house.



"Hey, Lola. ... Did you see this thing in the paper?"



Suddenly, the whole world blows up.



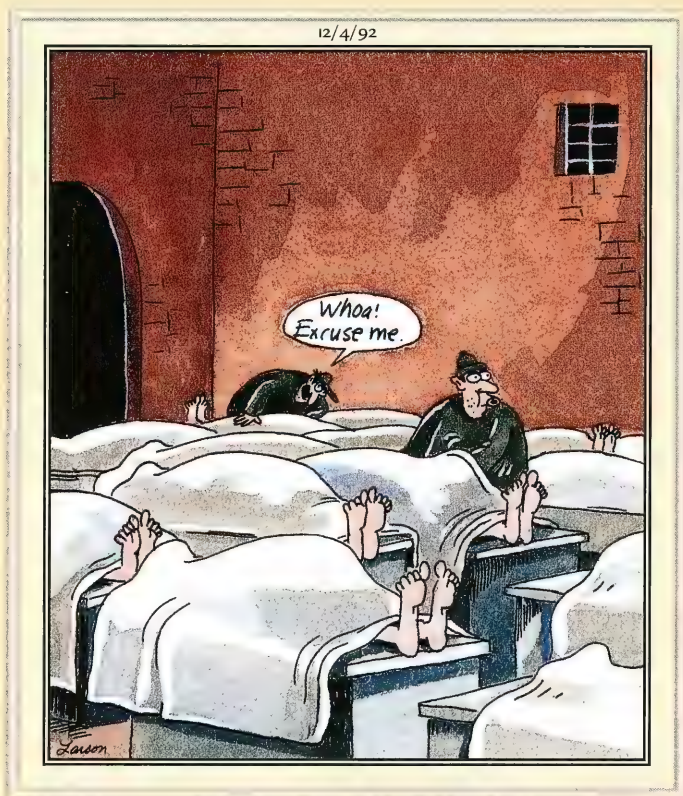
“Sheriff! Ben Wiggins is ridin’ into town, and he’s wearin’ that same little chiffon number that he wore when he shot Jake Sutton!”



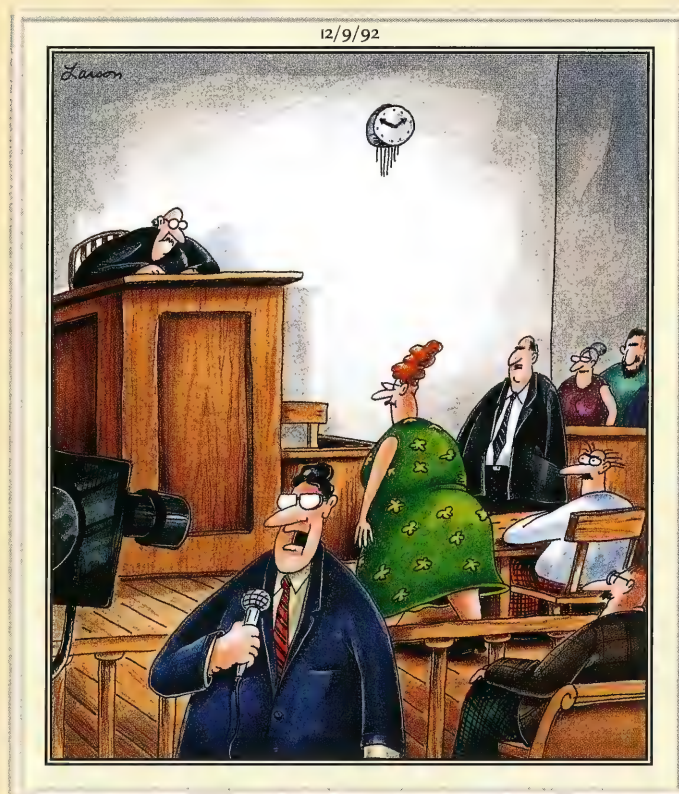
Early plumbers



“Be patient, Leona, be patient. ... Zebras won’t take a drink until they know it’s absolutely safe.”



Pickpockets of the Rue Morgue



"In this dramatic turn of events, testimony against Mr. Pumpkineater is about to be given by his sister, Jeannie Jeannie Eatszucchini."

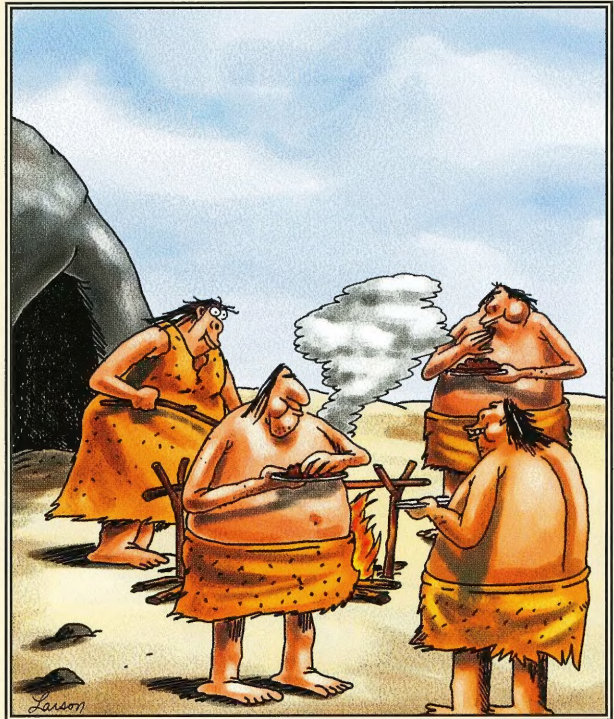


12/14/92



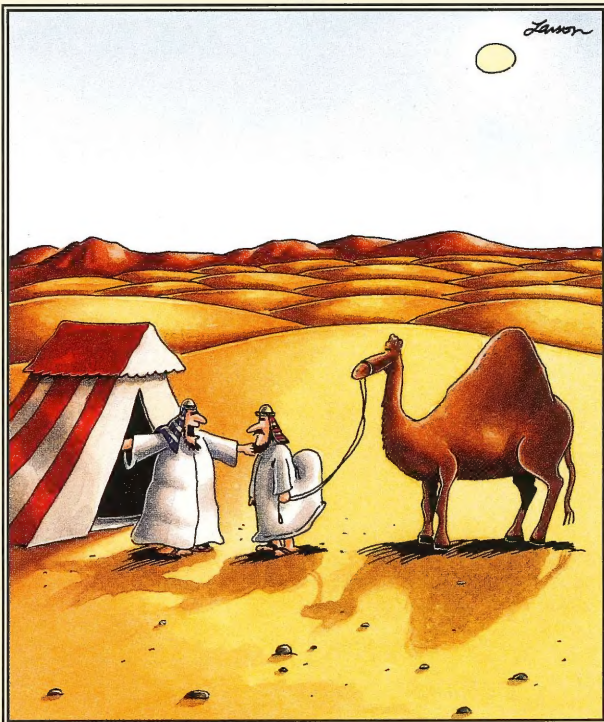
Testifying before a Senate subcommittee, the Hardy boys crack the Iran-contra scandal.

12/10/92



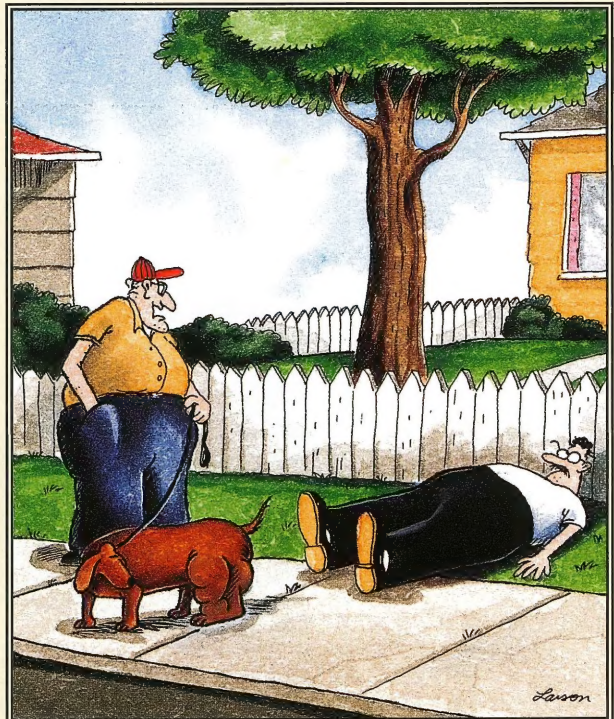
Origin of the expression "Puttin' on the dog"

12/15/92

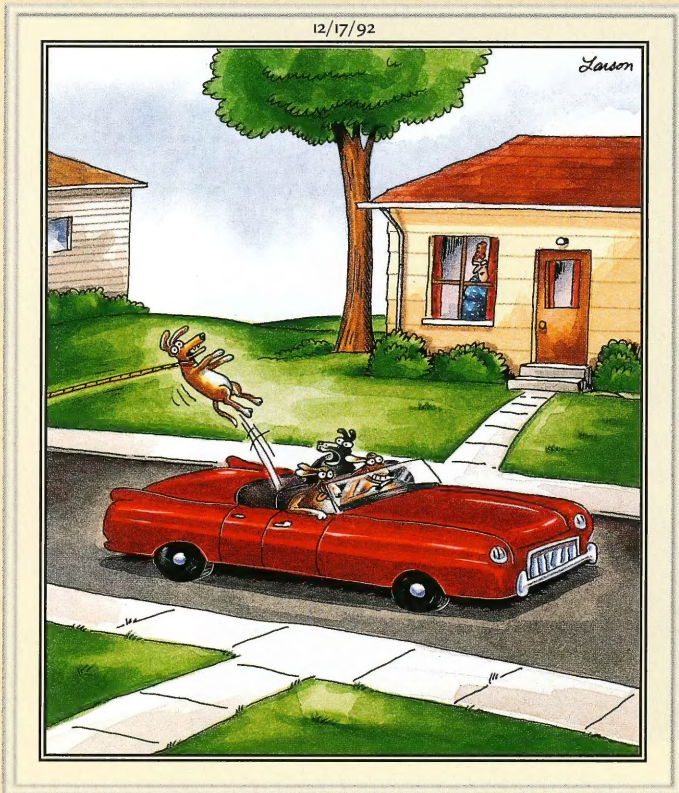


"Abdul, my old friend! Come in, come in! ... Have you traveled far?"

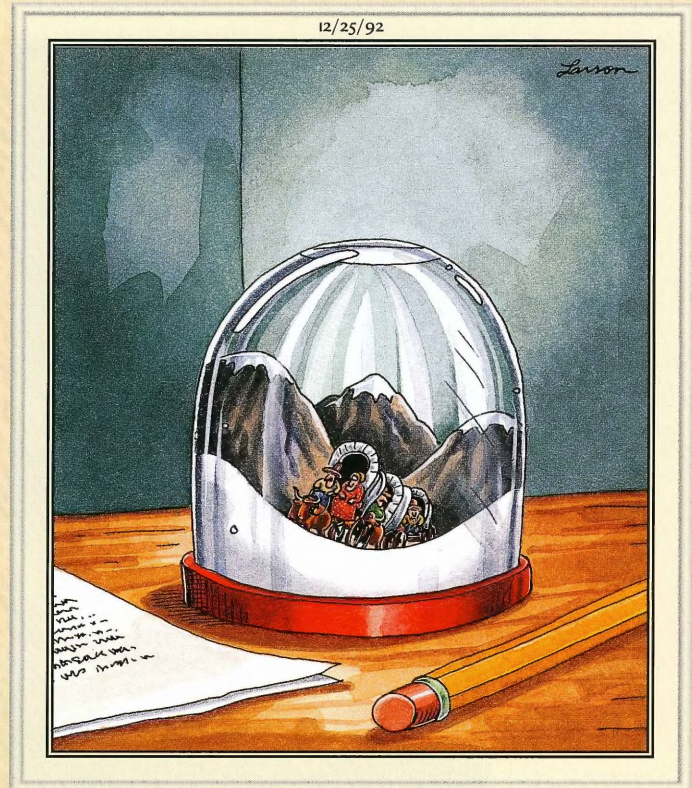
12/16/92



"You didn't give me a chance to elaborate, friend. ... Mitsy doesn't bite, but man, can she kick!"



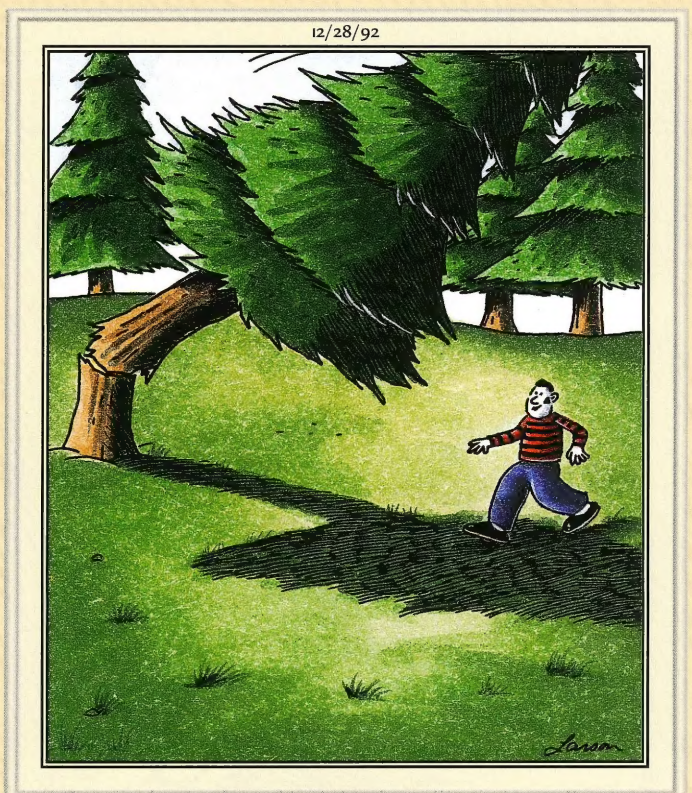
Careening through the neighborhood with reckless abandon, none of them suspected that Tuffy was still tied up.



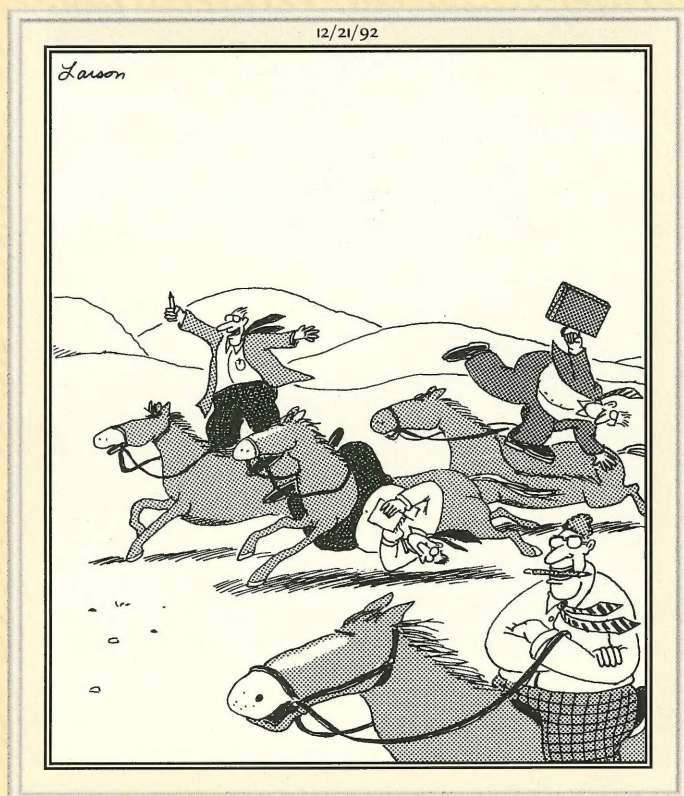
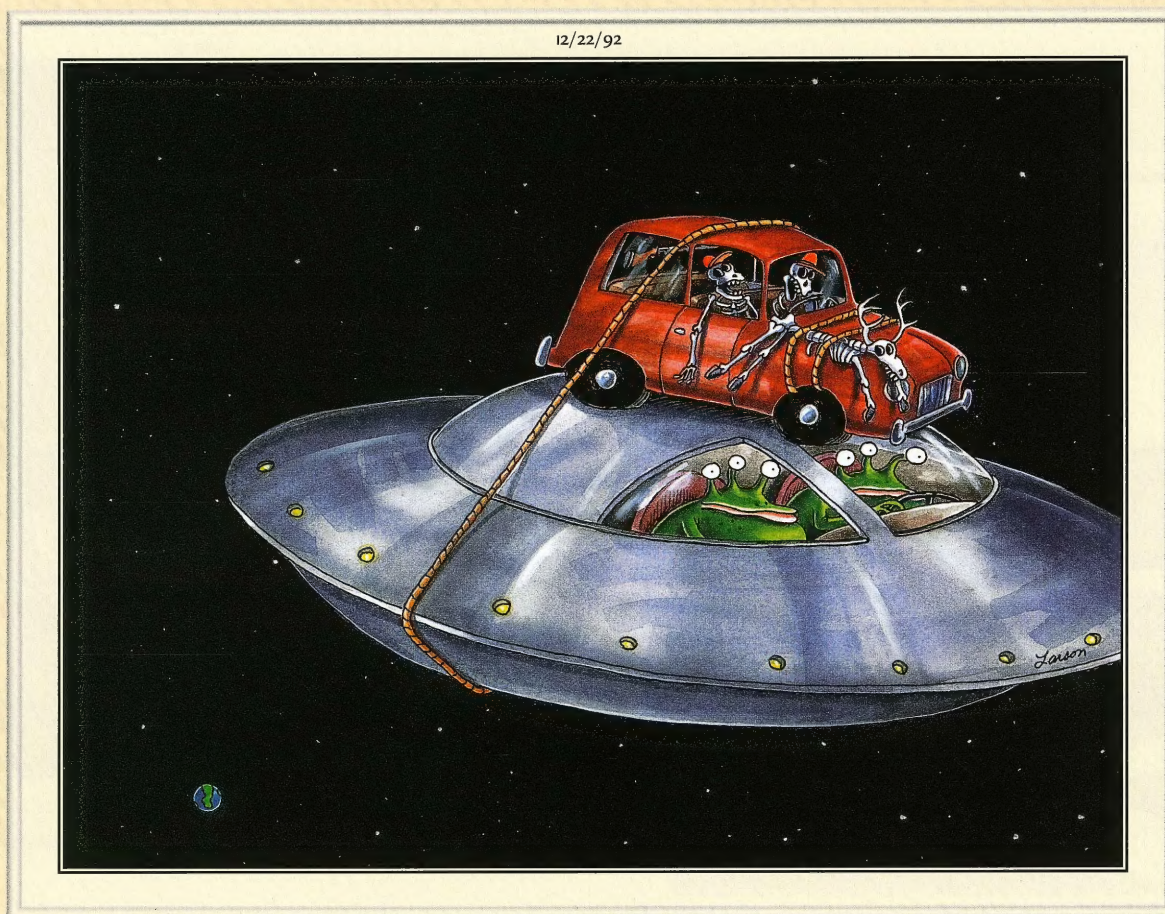
The ever-popular Donner Party snow dome



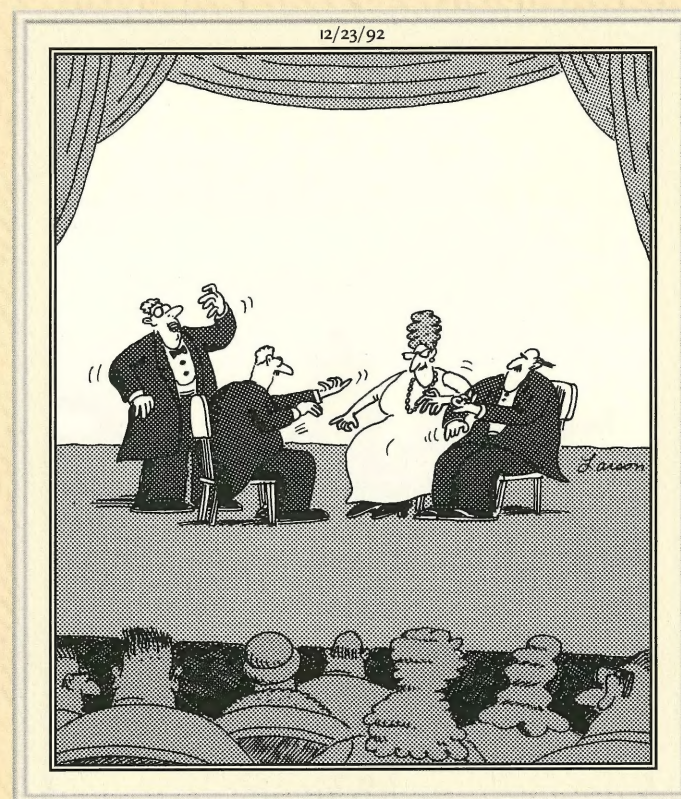
In her past, and unbeknownst to most people, Leona Helmsley was an avid bungee jumper.



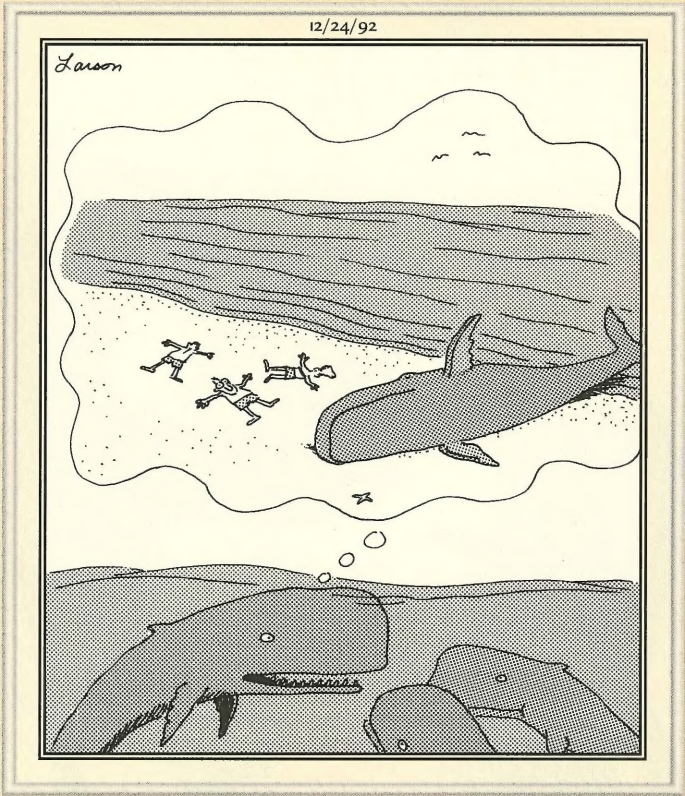
Question: If a tree falls in the forest and no one's around, and it hits a mime, does anyone care?



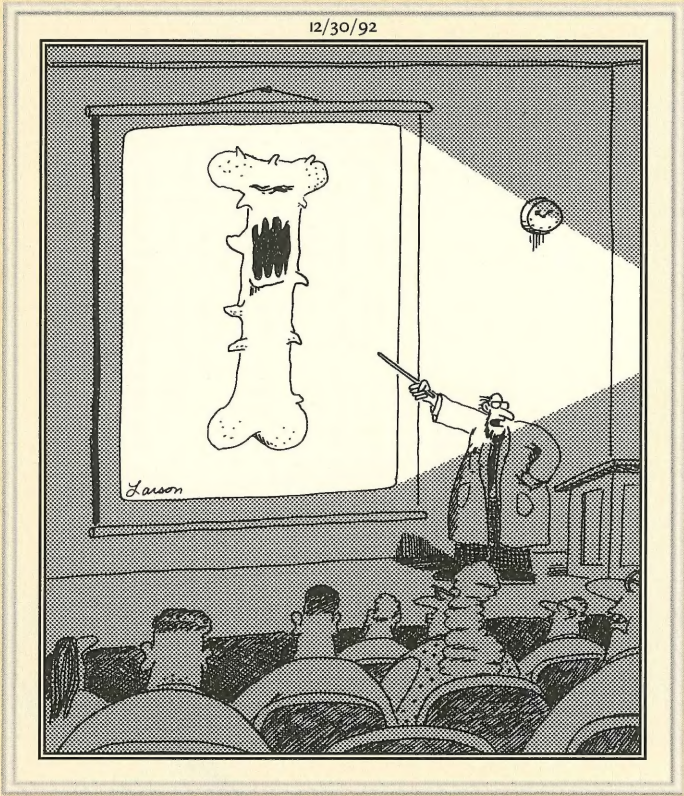
Cossack accountants



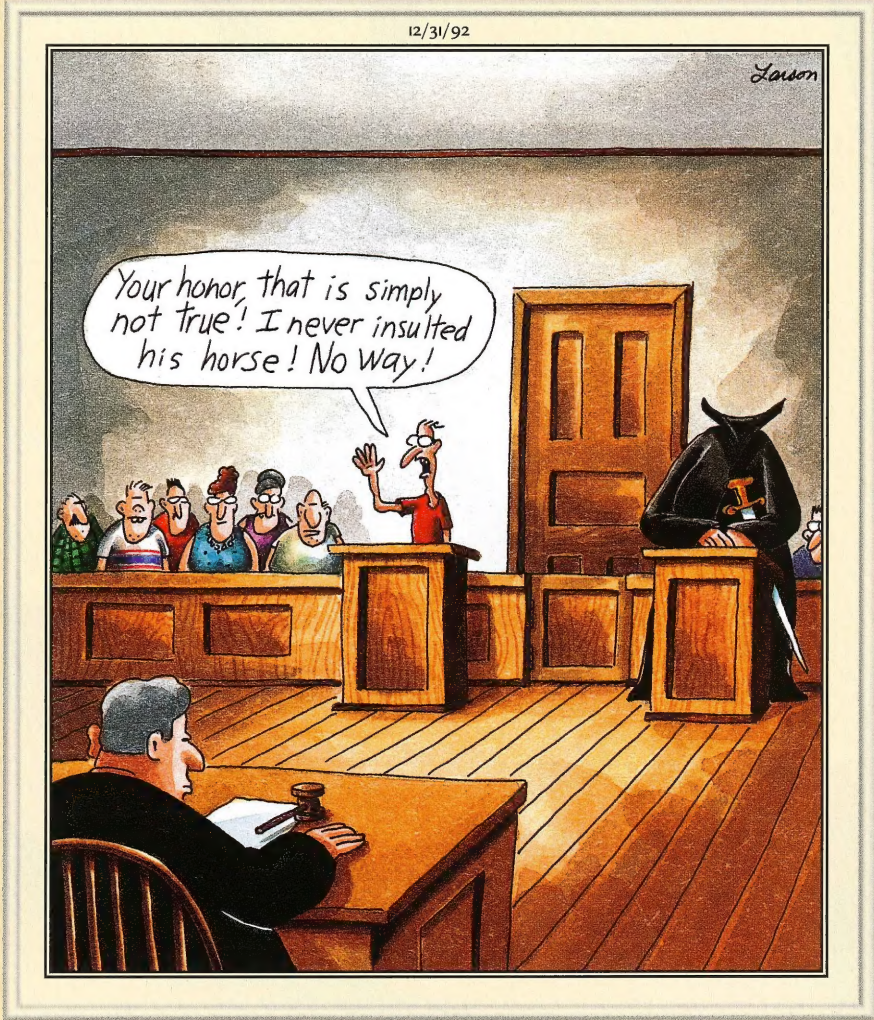
The Philadelphia Air Quartet



“And so there I was—beached! I could hear voices around me, but I couldn’t go forward or back. And then it hit me: I could roll!”



“Now, moving on from the so-called funny bone, we come to this little guy—and you tickle *him* at your own peril.”



Ichabod Crane v. the Headless Horseman in
The People’s Court.